

Duty cuts on farm items unlikely: Minister Piyush Goyal



India and Australia are looking to include critical minerals under the expanded free trade agreement (FTA), even as commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal made clear the government's reservations on reducing import duties on farm and dairy products.

Last year, the two countries signed Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, or an early harvest scheme and Goyal and Farrell have been tasked with concluding a full trade deal by the end of the year.

Australia has traditionally argued for lower import duties on agricultural and dairy products, Goyal said that Canberra acknowledged India's concerns given that a large majority of Indian farmers had small land holdings and their cattle stock was sufficient to meet their own requirements.

Bommau inaugurates milk processing plant in Haveri



Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai has announced that his government will set up a fodder producing unit in Haveri, to help increase dairy farming in the district.

Speaking at the inauguration of the UHT milk processing plant at Haveri District Cooperative Milk Producers Union and Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) in Jangamanakoppa village on Friday, the CM assured that quality fodder will be produced at the new fodder producing plant.

Bommau also noted that the UHT plant has the capacity to process 80,000-100,000 litres of milk in tetra packs. A private company has installed equipment imported from Germany at the plant where milk can be preserved for at least 180 days. This will help Karnataka supply milk to the neighbouring states.

Rohit Jawa will lead FMCG giant Hindustan Unilever as the new CEO and MD



FMCG giant Hindustan Unilever (HUL) has appointed Rohit Jawa as the new Managing Director & CEO. Jawa will take the leadership charge at HUL from June 27, 2023. He is succeeding Sanjiv Mehta who is going to retire from HUL after a transformational tenure of 10 years.

Apart from being CEO and MD at HUL, Jawa will also take over as the President at Unilever South Asia. He will also join the Unilever Leadership Executive (ULE) effective 1st April 2023. However, Jawa will join HUL as the CEO designate and whole-time director from April 1st, 2023.

HUL is India's largest Fast-Moving Consumer Goods company, with its products touching the lives of nine out of ten households in the country.

India's agriculture exports jump 10% in Apr-Jan FY23; Rice shipments surge 16%



Exports of agricultural and processed food products rose by 10% to \$ 21.79 billion during the first ten months of the current fiscal (2022-23) compared to the same period last year, driven by a spike in shipment of rice, fruits and vegetables, livestock and dairy products.

This comes at a time when India's merchandise exports shrank by 6.59% to \$32.91 billion on year in January, 2023 because of the slump in global trade and a moderation in domestic investment, and consumption demands.

Cumulatively, however, during April-January 2022-23, the country's merchandise exports rose 8.51% to \$ 369.25 billion.

According to the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the value of Basmati rice exports during April-January (2022-23) rose by more than 41% on year to \$ 3.8 billion from \$ 2.7 billion in the previous year. The shipment of non-Basmati rice registered a moderate growth of 3.3% to \$ 5.1 billion during the same period.

The export of meat, dairy and poultry products declined marginally compared to last year at \$ 3.3 billion during the April-January period of the current fiscal compared to previous year. The dairy products alone registered a growth of 10% to \$ 512 million during the same period. Processed fruits and vegetables reported export growth of 29% to \$ 1.6 billion in April-January, 2022-23 on year.

Commerce ministry officials attribute the rise in the export of agricultural and processed food products because of the centre's initiatives such as organising B2B exhibitions in various countries, tie ups with global hypermarket chains, exploring new potential markets through product-specific marketing campaigns by the active involvement of Indian missions.

Stubble burning incidents in Haryana 'down by 48%', says agriculture minister Jai Parkash Dalal

Instances of stubble burning in Haryana declined by 48 per cent from 6,800 to 3,800 between October last year and January 2023 compared to the same period in 2021-2022, said state agriculture and farmers' welfare minister Jai Parkash Dalal, adding that the government is confident about achieving its "zero burning" target. He also claimed that there had been "more than 50,000" stubble burning incidents in Punjab in the October 22.



Dalal added that the Haryana government has been buying stubble from farmers at a fixed price of Rs 2,500 per quintal. "Farmers have less time to sow the crop. If the government buys the stubble at a reasonable price, the farmers will definitely not burn it," he pointed out.

He said that the government's plan is to ensure that rainwater does not remain stagnant in a farmer's field for more than three days and that Rs 1,200 crore has been sanctioned for the flood control department for this purpose.

Dalal said that the Haryana government has increased the allocation for agriculture in its annual budget five-fold in the last five years. "In FY 2013-14, the budget was Rs 800 crore and this year, it has been kept at Rs 6,200 crore. The irrigation budget has also been increased by 30 per cent."

Milk prices to stay elevated till Diwali: Mother Dairy MD



Milk prices are likely to be at elevated levels till October this year due to high cost of feed and raw material, and supply challenges, a senior official of Mother Dairy, a major milk supplier in the Delhi-NCR region.

Organised players, including Mother Dairy and Amul, hiked milk prices multiple times in the last one year citing higher fodder cost, robust demand and some impact due to reports of lumpy skin.

“There is no respite from high milk prices till Diwali this year because of a sharp spike in the feed and raw material cost,” Manish Bandlish, MD, Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetables, a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

Industry sources said that feed cost, which has a share of more than 65% in the cost of production of milk, has increased to Rs 20/kg from Rs 8/kg a year ago.

Meenesh C Shah, chairman, NDDB, had earlier stated that fodder and feed costs have increased by 25% in the last one year and there was some drop in milk production in few pockets because of the spread of lumpy skin disease (LSD) among livestock population.

Milk inflation in January was at 8.79%. Prices have been rising since a 3.81% jump on year in February last year. The annual rate of fodder inflation based on the all-India Wholesale Price Index increased to 29.30% in January 2023 from 28.66% in December 2022. In January 2022, fodder inflation was recorded at 7.14% and since then, it has been rising steadily.

NITI Aayog Panel Pitches For Capital Assistance For Gaushalas

A NITI Aayog panel suggested that gaushalas should be helped through capital assistance and marketing of cow dung and cow urine-based formulations for application in agriculture to make them economically viable.

Besides, the task force, headed by NITI Aayog Member Ramesh Chand, has proposed setting up a portal for online registration of all gaushalas.

The report titled 'Production and Promotion of Organic and Bio Fertilisers with Special Focus on Improving Economic Viability of Gaushalas' said that gaushalas should be liberally financed for making a capital investment and working expenses at concessional rates of interest.



According to the report, a portal like the Darpan portal of NITI Aayog should be created for online registration of all gaushalas, which will then be eligible to get support from the animal welfare board.

Specific policy measures and support are required to encourage the commercial production, packaging, marketing and distribution of cow dung-based organic fertilisers, including brand development, it said.

Further, the report said, efforts should be made to attract private investments in mass-scale production of organic and bio-fertiliser, bio-pesticides, soil-enriching products and stimulants for use in agriculture, and various types of formulations for use in households.

Who are we ?

“The Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI)” an autonomous institution working under the aegis of the Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, to help the empowerment and betterment of Livelihood of farmers, wage workers, and other stakeholders in the Dairy value chain.

CEDSI Membership will provide a unique platform for the industry leaders, policymakers, development practitioners, dairy scientists, researchers, students, and farmers to debate and discuss the issues of imminent importance to the dairy industry.

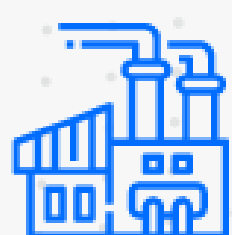


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