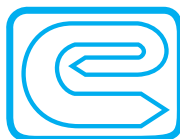




AGRI EXPORT ADVANTAGE



EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF INDIA

Visit us at www.eximbankindia.in

MARCH 2020

VOL XXIV ISSUE II

Published in English, Hindi, Marathi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu

CONTENTS

Budget 2020 for Agriculture	1
Cotton Outlook	2
Precision Farming.....	6
Edible Oils Industry in India	9
News Focus	12

Budget 2020 for Agriculture

Agriculture sector is vital to the Indian economy. It provides employment to nearly 70% of the Indian population and is a major source of employment for rural population in India. The share of agriculture in India's GDP, however, is relatively low at around 15%. The average growth rate of agriculture and allied activities has been 2.9% from 2014-15 to 2018-19. To give a fillip to the growth in the agriculture sector and the rural economy, the Government of India in its Union Budget 2020-21 have announced various schemes and fiscal packages for the agriculture sector and rural development.

An allocation of around ₹ 2.83 lakh crore has been earmarked for the financial year 2020-21 for the sector, comprising of Agriculture and allied activities, Irrigation, and Rural Development. This is further divided in two categories, viz, for agriculture, irrigation, and allied activities, the proposed allocation stands at ₹ 1.6 lakh crore, and for rural development and Panchayati Raj the proposed allocation is ₹ 1.23 lakh crore.

The Union Budget 2020-21 has set a target of ₹ 15 lakh crore towards

agricultural credit for the fiscal 2020-21. The Budget proposes to further expand the re-finance scheme by NABARD. The budget, also proposes to expand integrated farming systems in rain fed areas and introduce multi-tier cropping, bee-keeping, solar pumps, solar energy production in non-cropping season. Zero-Budget Natural Farming (mentioned in July 2019 budget) shall also be included. The portal on "jaivik kheti" – online national organic products market is also proposed to be strengthened in the budget.

Fasal Bima Yojna, the insurance scheme providing protection to the farmers from natural calamities saw an increase in coverage from 30% of the cropped area in 2016-17 to 40% in 2017-18 followed by 50% in 2018-19. Around 30.9 million people enrolled for the scheme during its launch in Kharif 2015. A year later enrollment rate increased by 30 percent to 40.3 million. However, enrollment decreased to 18.3 million during Kharif 2019. Provisioning in Budget 2020-21 for this scheme has been increased to ₹ 21,175 crore from ₹ 14,000 crore in the interim budget of July 2019.

Government envisages to continue emphasizing direct cash transfers to farmers under the PM-Kisan scheme. A budget estimate of ₹ 75,000 crore has been earmarked towards the scheme for the year 2020-21. The Government of India has disbursed ₹ 43,000 crore as of January 2020 to 8 crore farmers under this scheme.

The Budget provides ₹ 1000 crore for PM-KUSUM Yojna under which 20 lakh farmers are anticipated to set up standalone solar pumps. This measure envisages reducing farmer's dependence on diesel and kerosene and link them to solar energy. Further, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Railways proposes to launch Krishi UDAAN and Kisan Rail schemes, respectively, which envisages improving value realization of agricultural produce, especially from the North-East and tribal districts.

Sagar Mitra Scheme announced in the Budget proposes to facilitate infrastructure, modernization, production, productivity, post-harvest management, and quality control in the fisheries sector.

The Budget allocation towards agriculture and allied activities has been significantly increased from

Allocations to Agriculture and Allied Sector in Union Budgets

Year	Total Budget Allocation	Allocation for Agriculture and Allied Sectors	Share of Agricultural Allocation in Total Budget
	₹ Crore	₹ Crore	%
2014-15	1794892.0	31062.9	1.7
2015-16	1777477.0	24909.8	1.4
2016-17	1978060.5	48572.0	2.5
2017-18	2146735.0	58663.0	2.7
2018-19	2442213.0	63836.0	2.6
2019-20	2786349.0	151518.0	5.4
2020-21	3042230.1	160000.0	5.3

Source: Budgets of various years

₹ 0.63 lakh crore in 2018-19 to ₹ 1.5 lakh crore in 2019-20 and to ₹ 1.6 lakh crore in 2020-21, registering a share of 5.3% in the total budget allocation of 2020 compared to a share of 2.6% during 2018-19.

References:

- Union Budget of India.

Cotton Outlook

Global Outlook:

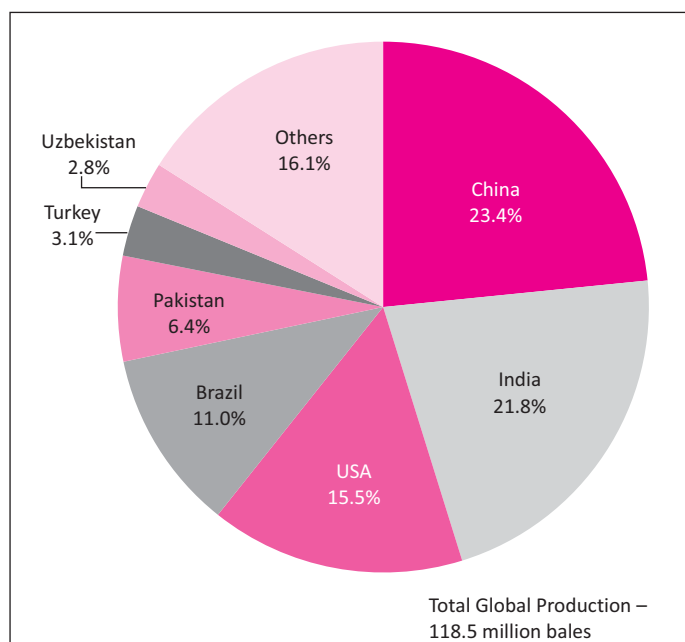
Production and consumption

The global production of cotton was expected to rise 6.9 % in 2019-20 to a record of 126.5 million bales, which is estimated to be the second-highest level ever, and only about 0.6% lower than 127.2 million bales in 2011-12. The projection however

may not be realized with the ongoing global situation of coronavirus. The global production of cotton was estimated at 118.5 million bales in 2018-19, witnessing a decline of 4.2% from 123.7 million bales¹ the previous year. China was the largest producer in 2018-19 with estimated production of 27.7 million bales. Other major producers of cotton included India, the USA, Brazil, Pakistan and Turkey.

¹USDA

Top Cotton Producing Countries (2018-19)



Source: USDA

Total global consumption of cotton during 2018-19 was estimated at 120.2 million bales. China was the largest consumer of cotton with estimated consumption of 39.5 million bales, followed by India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Turkey.

Trade

The global export of cotton² was valued at US\$ 59.8 billion in 2018³ witnessing an increase of 5.01% over US\$ 56.99 billion in 2017. China was the largest exporter of cotton with estimated export of US\$ 15.4 billion in 2018, followed by the US with estimated export of US\$ 8.38 billion. Other major exporters of cotton were India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Turkey and Australia.

Global import of cotton was estimated at US\$ 53.2 billion in 2018, which registered an increase of 7.83% over an estimated US\$ 49.4 billion in 2017. China was the major importer of cotton with estimated import of US\$ 9.9 billion in 2018. China

was followed by Bangladesh with estimated import of US\$ 6.9 billion. Other major importers of cotton include Vietnam, Turkey and Indonesia.

Indian Scenario

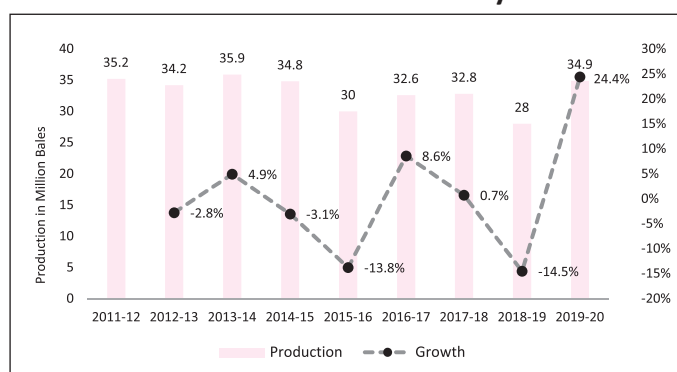
India has been largely self-sufficient in cotton production supported by the Indian Government through several special schemes and intensive cotton producing programmes implemented through successive five year plans in the country. The production of cotton received considerable boost with large scale cultivation of hybrid varieties and the launch of the 'Technology Mission on Cotton' by the Government of India in 2000. There has also been an augmentation in the cotton yield and the acreage under the cultivation of BT cotton.

Area and Production

The production of cotton in India was estimated at 28.04 million bales in 2018-19 witnessing a fall of 14.5% from the previous year production of 32.8 million bales. The production for 2019-20, as per second advanced estimate stands at 34.8 million bales.

The area under production of cotton in India was estimated at 12.5 million hectare in 2017-18,

Production of Cotton and Yearly Growth



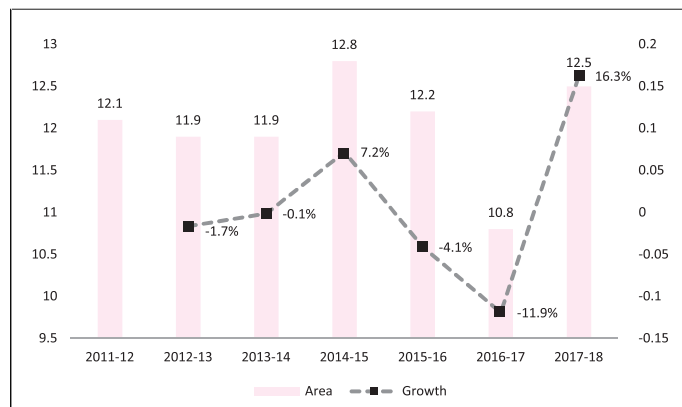
Source: CMIE Economic Outlook

²Here HS Code 52 for cotton is taken

³Trade Map

witnessing an increase of 16.3% from the estimated area of 2016-17.

Area under Production and Yearly Growth

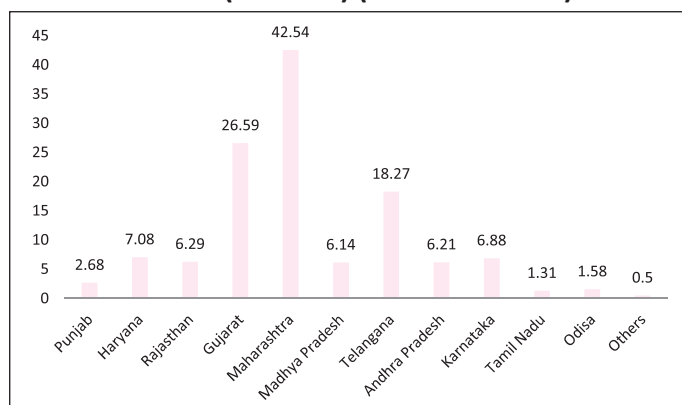


Source: CMIE Economic Outlook

India grows all four species of cultivated cotton *Gossypium arboreum* and *herbaceum* (Asian cotton), *G. barbadense* (Egyptian cotton) and *G. hirsutum* (American Upland cotton). *Gossypium hirsutum* represents 88% of the hybrid cotton production in India and all the cotton hybrids grown in India are *G. hirsutum*.

In India, Gujarat was the largest producer of cotton with estimated production of 8.7 million bales during 2018-19. Gujarat was followed by Maharashtra, Telangana, Rajasthan and Haryana.

State Wise Area under Cultivation for Cotton (2018-19) (in lakh hectare)

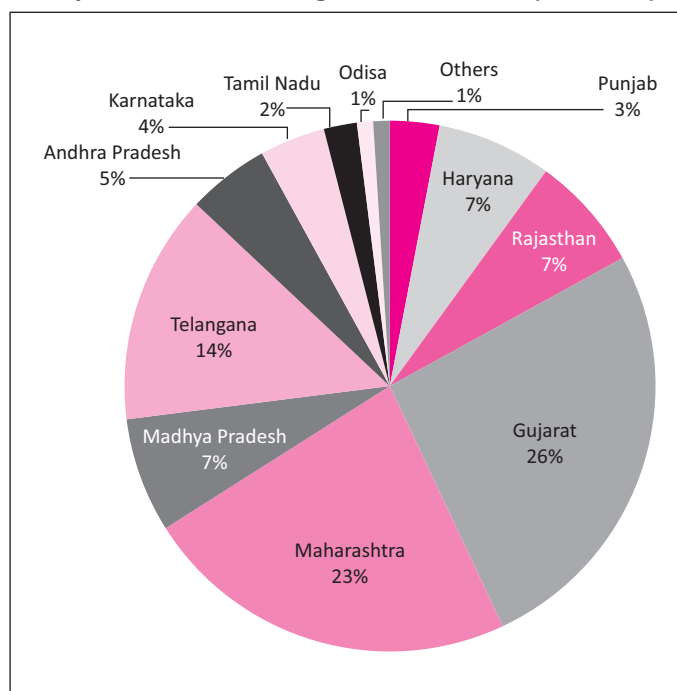


Source: Ministry of Agriculture

⁴Data as per DGCIS, HS code 52 for Cotton

2018-19, Maharashtra reported to have the highest area under cultivation of cotton among the Indian states.

Top Cotton Producing States in India (2018-19)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Trade

The export of cotton from India was estimated at US\$ 7.8 billion⁴ in 2018-19, registering an increase of 11.96% over US\$ 7.05 billion the previous year. Bangladesh was the largest export destination for Indian cotton, with an estimated export of US\$ 1.87 billion during the year 2018-19. With booming textile sector in Bangladesh, the export of cotton to Bangladesh from India has increased significantly overtime. Bangladesh was closely followed by China with an estimated export of US\$ 1.78 billion from India in 2018-19. Other major export destinations for Indian cotton are Pakistan, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Republic of Korea and Egypt.

Total import of cotton by India was estimated at US\$ 840 million during 2018-19, witnessing a steep

Major Export Destinations and Import Sources for India

Exports			Imports		
Country	2017-18	2018-19	Country	2017-18	2018-19
	US\$ million			US\$ million	
Bangladesh	1823	1878.0	USA	461.9	347.0
China	1003.2	1786.8	China	130.6	121.1
Pakistan	54.4	55.0	Egypt	75.7	62.9
Vietnam	43.6	45.5	Australia	141.8	58.9
Sri Lanka	22.3	24	Bangladesh	18.6	23.4
Korea	20.3	23.7	Tanzania	5.8	21.1
Egypt	19.4	22.1	Singapore	0.55	17.7
Portugal	17.1	14.2	Pakistan	10.9	15.4
Peru	13.2	12.9	Greece	5.4	15.1
World	7045.2	7888.3	World	1181.1	840.5

Source: DGCIS

decline of 28.8% from US\$ 1.18 billion the previous year. The USA was the major import source of cotton for India, with an estimated import of US\$ 347 million in 2018-19, followed by China with an estimated import of US\$ 121.1 million in 2018-19. Other major import sources were Egypt, Australia, Bangladesh and Tanzania.

Outlook

The global production and production of cotton in India was forecast to increase in the year 2019-20, with increase varying from 3-5%. The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), in its cotton summary for October 2019, noted that global production, which is projected at about 26.8 million tonnes is expected to marginally outpace global consumption, projected at 26.5 million tonnes, for the year 2019-20, putting a downward pressure on the cotton prices. However, with the current crisis of the pandemic of novel coronavirus and its impact on global economies, all predictions pertaining to

production, trade and consumptions across industries stands altered. China, the largest consumer of cotton in the world, has been the epicenter of the novel virus and first country to report a complete shutdown of its economic activities for almost a period of three months since January 2020. Hence, impacting considerably the industries involved in cotton processing, resulting in the demand for cotton taking a hit. The global spread of the pandemic subsequently, has resulted in considerable closure of industrial production and trade globally. However, the exact impact of the pandemic on the global cotton industry is still unknown.

References:

- DGCIS
- Ministry of Agriculture
- CMIE Economic Outlook

Precision Farming

Introduction

With the increasing global population and demand for food, agriculture globally, is under constant pressure to produce more food, animal feed and fiber. Growing environmental concerns, are continuously adding to that pressure by demanding need for using fewer chemicals, less energy, efficient land and water management, and sustainability of production. Agriculture land and labor is also becoming scarce with increasing urbanization. Here, precision farming can play an important role in achieving sustainability in production by optimally using resources.

Precision farming is a method of utilizing necessary inputs in precise amounts to increase average yields in comparison to the traditional methods of cultivation. It is a comprehensive system designed to optimize production by using key elements of information, technology, and management, so as to increase production efficiency, improve product quality, improve the efficiency of crop chemical use, conserve energy and protect environment. Precision farming through the use of artificial intelligence can have remote control of farm activities, and monitor effectively various farming practices, such as application of seeds, fertilizers and agrochemicals, and harvesting.

Precision farming technologies used in monitoring the condition of soil, crop and quality of water can help farmers in maintaining higher level of productivity while reducing use of fertilizer and pesticides, in turn addressing the environmental concerns arising due to overuse of the chemicals. The technologies also have the abilities to monitor crop health in the fields throughout their life cycles and provide real time information to the farmers for necessary interventions. The technologies

developed in precision farming also have the abilities in remote survey of standing crops for yield estimates and crop size.

Tools and Equipment Required

Technology is the key tool for precision farming. Some of the major tools used in precision farming include:

- Remote sensing technology,
- Geo-mapping,
- High precision positioning systems,
- Automated steering systems,
- Smart sensors and a range of IT-applications combined with high-tech engineering,
- Integrated electronic communications,
- Variable rate technology.

GPS, sensor based technologies include remote sensing, Geographic Information System (GIS), Grid Soil Sampling and variable-Rate Fertilizer (VRT), soil and plant quality sensors, among others.

High Field Accuracy using Satellite Positioning System

The global positioning system (GPS) serves as the basis of precision farming development. It's mainly used for auto-steer systems and the production of geo-reference information. GPS is a helpful tool used in disseminating real time information to the growers and farmers on various requirements on the field, such as soil type, weed invasion, pest occurrence, water holes, boundaries and obstructions. GPS navigation has emerged as the most effective way in precision farming to improve accuracy, speed, and uniformity of input application. This technology helps farmers keep machinery in the same traffic pattern. The system allows farmers to reliably identify field locations for effective application of inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides,

herbicides and irrigation water), by reducing skips and overlaps.

Automated Steering System

This system reduces human error and allows farmers better control of the equipment, thus providing effective field management. The automated steering system allows the machinery driving control, overhead turning by following the field edges, and minimizes overlapping of rows. There are various types of automated steering systems which provide different accuracy levels of field operations. The most accurate one is the centimeter system, based on a local station with real-time kinematic (RTK) differential correction. To provide ± 25 mm accuracy of the machinery pass, the RTK system requires a base station and a data communication system. It can be either mounted to the machinery or operated through the electro-hydraulic steering system.

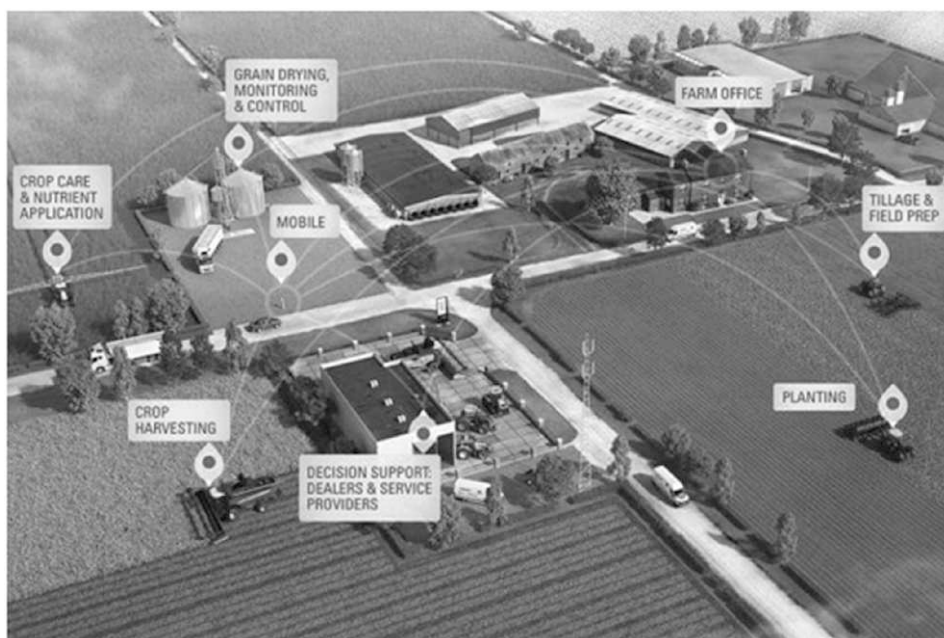
Variable Rate Technology (VRT)

Variable rate technology allows the farmer to control the amount of input, such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and water. It provides optimization on planting density and improved

application rate efficiency of pest protection products and nutrients, resulting in reduction in production cost and negative environmental impact. Combining a variable-rate (VR) control system with application equipment, this technology allows application of inputs at a precise time and field location in order to achieve site-specific application rates of inputs.

Geo-Mapping with Sensors and Remote Sensing

Geo-mapping is a technology used to create maps of various soil and crop conditions, such as soil nutrient levels, soil type, soil pH, pest occurrence, and irrigation requirement. Soil maps are created by sensors attached to a vehicle or from a distance, by remote sensing drones, airplanes, and satellites. In conjunction with a GPS, these sensors collect data from the field to evaluate soil and crop health and assign the information captured to the particular field location. Using the geo-maps, farmers are able to precisely detect events or changes in soil properties and provide a corresponding output. Remote sensing data are also used to distinguish crop species, locate stress conditions, identify pests and weeds, and monitor soil and plant responses to the inputs.



Indian Scenario

The adoption of precision farming in India is yet in the nascent stage due to unique pattern of landholdings, poor infrastructure and various socio-economic reasons. However, steps in the direction of precision farming have been initiated by the central and various state governments and private entities in the country. Some of the research institutes, such as Space Applications Centre (under the aegis of ISRO), M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, and Project Directorate of Cropping Systems Research had started working in this direction and they envisage helping the Indian farmers to improve their production and productivity using these frontier technologies without compromising on the quality of the agricultural lands. In addition, there are several programs implemented by the private entities that uses remote-sensing technologies to analyze soil health, and generate information on crop health and pest attacks.

Challenges for Precision Farming

According to the various research reports, the estimated value of global precision agriculture market varied from US\$ 5 billion to US\$ 7 billion during 2019. The growth in the market is not as robust as expected, due to the several key challenges faced by the sector.

Investments in the projects remains a major challenge faced by this sector. As the technologies are cost intensive both in terms of capital investment and knowhow, makes them financially unviable for large scale application among small and marginal farmers. The small size of landholdings in India also limits the economic gains that can be reaped by the use of precision farming.

Adaptability and skill development pose another

major challenge for the usage of precision farming technologies. Growing dependence of agriculture on technology comes with its potential challenge with respect to adequate and effective skill development on operations and management. This increases the risks of implementation of technologies and its sustainability in agriculture.

Way Forward

Precision farming can play an important part in addressing global food security more efficiently by optimal use of resources and minimal damage to the environment. Engineering solutions, such as those underlying in precision farming systems can help in increasing the availability of time until agriculture can reap the benefits of longer-term research into plant and animal genetics.

The investment in precision farming is expected to increase as the technique begins yielding positive results. In developing countries like India, rapid socio-economic changes, such as economic growth, rapid urbanization, and energy consumption is anticipated to create new opportunities for the application of precision agriculture. There are also scope of customizing the technologies as per the requirements and socio-economic conditions of the country. However, economic viability of precision agriculture would continue to be driven by the extent of implementation, adaptability and sustainability of the projects. In India, execution of precision agriculture projects through the farmer clusters, such as cooperatives and producer companies may be a potential option towards economic viability and success of the projects.

References:

- Science Direct

Edible Oils Industry in India

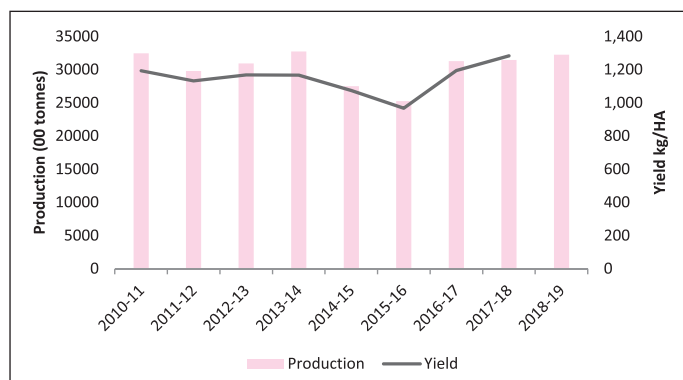
Overview

The oilseed crops are one of major segments in Indian agriculture. India is among the largest producers of oilseeds. However, in the recent years the production in the country has not been able to keep pace with the demand. Subsequently, India has emerged as the largest importer of edible oil globally. The ever-increasing gap between the demand and supply of edible oil in India, has resulted in meeting over 60% of the domestic need through imports.

Production

The production process for edible oil from the oilseeds involves crushing and pressing of oilseeds, oil extraction and refinery. The major oilseeds produced in India are soybean, groundnuts, linseed, rapeseed and mustard, sunflower seeds and castor.

Production of Oilseeds in India



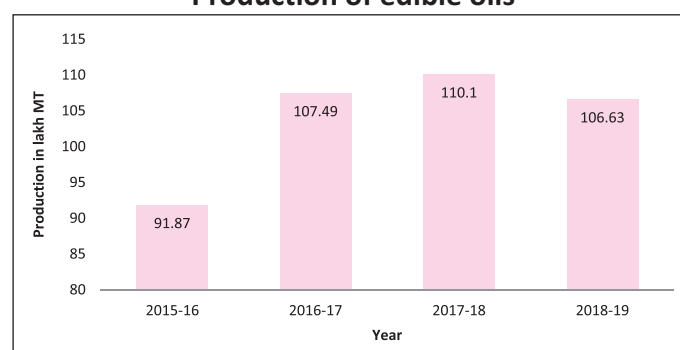
Source: CMIE Economic outlook

The total production of oilseeds in India was estimated at 32,257 thousand tonnes in 2018-19 witnessing a y-o-y increase of 2.54%, over 2017-18⁵. Soybean was the major contributor to the total oilseed production with estimated production

of 137.8 thousand tonnes in 2018-19. The share of soybean in total oilseed production was 42% followed by rapeseed and mustard (29%) and groundnut (20%), during 2018-19.

The production of edible oil in India was estimated at 106.63 lakh MT in 2018-19, a decline of 3.47 lakh MT from the estimated value of 110.1 lakh MT in the year, 2017-18. The production registered a CAGR of 3.79%, from 2015-16 to 2018-19. The edible oil production in India include oil from the primary sources comprising of nine oilseeds, and other secondary sources, which include coconut oil, palm oil, cottonseed oil and solvent extracted oils. The primary sources accounts for nearly 70% of edible oil production in the country.

Production of edible oils

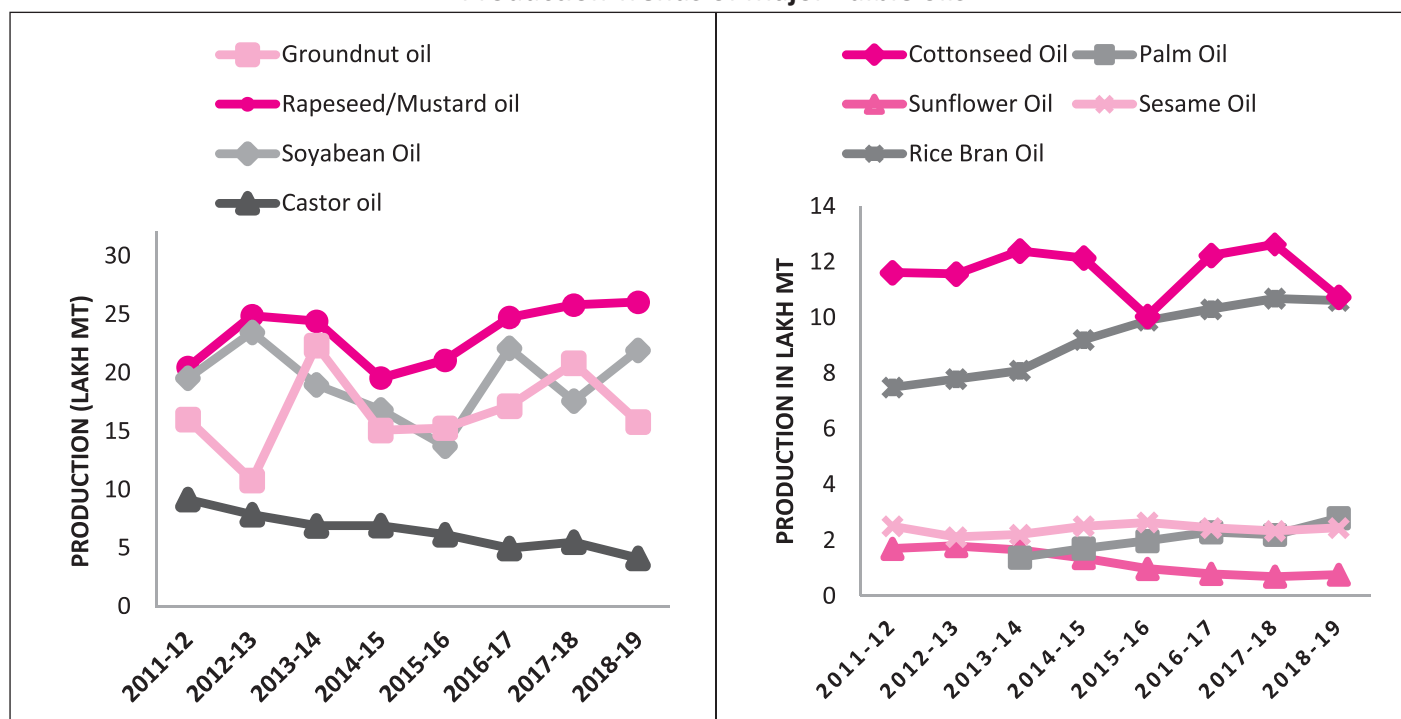


Source: Indiatat

Out of the total edible oil produced in 2018-19, rapeseed/mustard oil was the major contributor, with an estimated production of 26.05 lakh MT. Other major edible oils produced during 2018-19 were groundnut oil (15.81 lakh MT), soybean oil (21.93 lakh MT), castor oil (4.14 lakh MT), cottonseed oil (10.74 lakh MT), sesame oil (2.45 lakh MT), palm oil (2.8 lakh MT) and sunflower oil (2 lakh MT).

⁵Data for 2018-19 is as per fourth advanced estimate.

Production Trends of Major Edible oils



Source: IndiaStat

Trade

Import

India is the largest importer of edible oils in the world. Import of edible oil was estimated at 150.1 lakh tonnes in 2018-19. In value terms, the imports were estimated at around ₹ 66,680 crores in 2018-19. The imports were estimated at 50.2 lakh tonnes during Apr-Jul 2019. This include crude oil as well as refined oil, where the refined oil is mostly imported in the form of refined palm oil.

Among all edible oils imported into India, share of palm oil is around 60%. The import of palm oil was estimated at 89.4 lakh MT in 2018-19, valued at ₹ 36,633 crore. Import of palm oil in 2018-19 witnessed a steep y-o-y decline in value at ₹ 43,655 crore over the previous year. Other major edible oils imported were soybean oil and sunflower oil. India imports palm oil mostly from Indonesia and Malaysia; soybean oil from Argentina and Brazil; sunflower oil from Ukraine and Russia; and canola

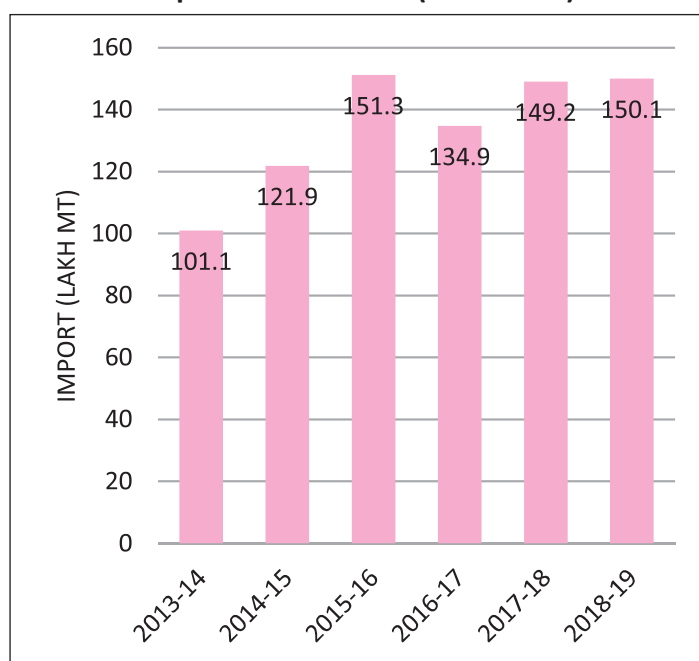
oil from Canada.

Import of edible oil is regulated by the Govt. of India under Open General License. Import duties on edible oils are reviewed periodically. W.E.F. 14.06.2018, the import duty on all crude and refined edible oils was raised to 35% and 45%, respectively while the import duty on Olive oil was increased to 40%. The import duty on crude and refined palm oil was revised to 40% and 50%, respectively for imports from ASEAN countries and 40% and 45%, respectively for imports from Malaysia⁶.

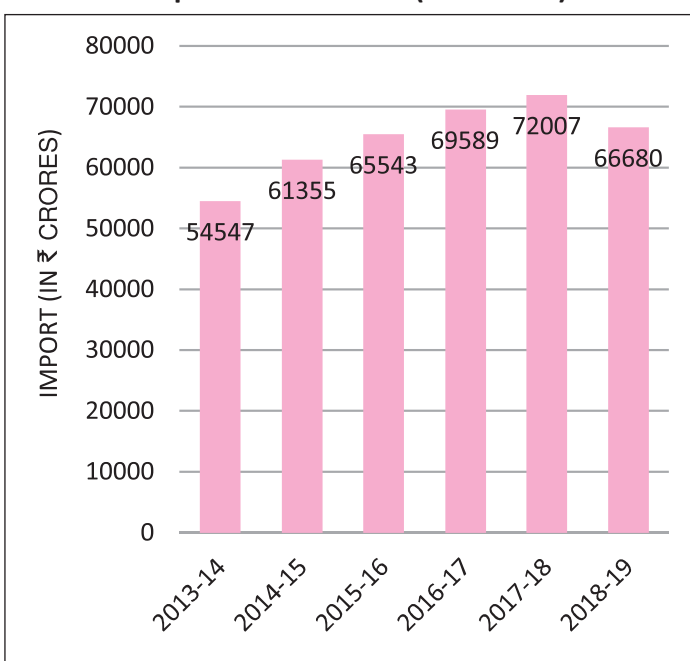
Export

To ensure availability of edible oil in the country, export of major edible oils from India was banned by the Government of India since 2008, until recently. The ban has been lifted on certain segments recently, and export of groundnut oil, sesame oil, soybean oil and maize oil in bulk, irrespective of any pack size has been permitted.

⁶Department of Food and Public Distribution

Import of Edible oils (in lakh MT)


Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Import of Edible oils (in ₹ crores)


Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

The removal of ban is anticipated to create a level playing ground for Indian edible oil exporters, making them competitive in the trade of edible oils. However, as India rely much on the import of edible oil, export volume envisaged to be low.

Outlook

The industrial sales in edible oil industry was estimated at ₹ 1.37 trillion in 2017-18, which witnessed a decline of 0.3% from the previous year value⁷. The domestic demand of edible oils is expected to increase amid increasing income, urbanization and food habits of people.

Table 1: India's Import of Major Edible Oils (in ₹ crore)

Year	Palm Oil	Soybean Oil	Sunflower Oil
2013-14	39,355	8,308	6,883
2014-15	38,894	12,908	9,553
2015-16	37,799	19,419	8,324
2016-17	41,089	18,707	9,793
2017-18	43,655	16,492	11,860
2018-19	36,633	16,389	13,657

Source: Department of Commerce

The demand-supply conditions and tariffs charged by the government are chief determinants of edible oil prices. At present, the prices of soya oil and crude palm oil are weak in the international markets. There is a further downward pressure on the prices due to higher expected production of oilseeds in India and globally, for the current year. India's productivity in oilseed production is below the world average. An increase in productivity could increase the oilseed production significantly leading to an increase in the production of edible oil.

Recently, the palm oil import from Malaysia witnessed a decline. However, this may not have any significant impact on the overall imports of palm oil by India. Palm oil importers, in recent years, have been shifting sourcing from Malaysia to Indonesia and other palm oil producing countries.

Reference:

- Department of Commerce
- Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare

⁷CMIE Industrial Outlook

News Focus

Agriculture based Projects sanctioned by Government of India under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

Ten projects worth ₹ 301.54 crore were sanctioned for food processing sector by the Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC). This included grant-in-aid of ₹ 67.29 crore. The projects were sanctioned under the 'Agro Processing Cluster Scheme' of Kisan Sampada Yojana of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). These projects are likely to generate employment for ten thousand people and benefit nearly forty thousand farmers. IMAC approved 8 projects spread over eight districts of Tamil Nadu under the cluster scheme worth ₹ 230 crore.

The scheme aims at development of modern infrastructure and common facilities to encourage entrepreneurs to set up food processing units based on cluster approach by linking groups of producers and farmers to the processors and markets through well-equipped supply chain with modern infrastructure.

Source: The Economic Times

CCEA of Government of India gives approval to formation of 10,000 FPOs

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval for the formation of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the five-year period from 2019-20 to 2023-24. This scheme will have total budgetary provision of ₹ 4,496 crore for five years (2019-20 to 2023-24) with a further committed liability of ₹ 2,369 crore for period from 2024-25 to 2027-28 towards handholding of each FPO for five years from its aggregation and formation.

This envisages supporting the small and marginal farmers who do not have economic strength to apply production technology, services and marketing including

value addition. Through the formation of FPOs, farmers are envisaged to have better collective strength for improved access to quality inputs, technology, credit and markets by achieving economies of scale and enhanced income realisation. Initially the minimum number of members in FPO is proposed to be 300 in plain area and 100 in the North-East and hilly areas. However, Department for Agriculture Cooperation and Farmer's Welfare anticipates revising the minimum number of memberships based on experience or need with approval of the Agriculture ministry. Priority will be given to formation of FPOs in aspirational districts in the country with at least one FPO in each block.

Source: FNB News

Destructive plague of locust ravaging farmland in Africa

A locust invasion has been swarming across parts of Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya, destroying crops and pastureland in its wake. The desert locust is a voracious pest that has invaded Ethiopia before and usually attacks fields of khat, coffee, teff and millet. According to the United Nations, this has been the worst outbreak of its kind in 25 years for Ethiopia and Somalia, and the worst Kenya has seen in 70 years. Unusual weather patterns, including heavy rains since October, and subsequent climatic conditions are thought to be responsible for the spread of the desert locust swarms.

FAO estimates, a desert locust can consume roughly its own weight in fresh food per day, about two grams worth. It categorizes the desert locust as a dangerous migratory pest capable of flying up to 150 kilometers a day, assisted by wind.

Source: Eco Watch

The news items and information published herein have been collected from various sources, which are considered to be reliable. While every care has been taken for authenticity of the material published, Exim Bank accepts no responsibility for authenticity or accuracy of such items.

Export-Import Bank of India, Centre One Building, Floor 21, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400 005. Tel: 2217 2600 E-Mail: ccg@eximbankindia.in / sumana@eximbankindia.in / ashok.s@eximbankindia.in Website: www.eximbankindia.in / www.eximmitra.in

Contact Numbers: Ahmedabad: 26576852, Bangalore: 25585755, Chandigarh: 2641910/12, Chennai: 28522830, Guwahati: 2237607, Hyderabad: 23307816, Kolkata: 22833419, New Delhi: 61242600, Pune: 25648856, Abidjan : (225) 79707149, Addis Ababa: (251116) 630079, Dhaka: +88 02 5504 2444, Dubai: (9714) 3637462, Johannesburg: (2711) 3265103, London: (4420) 77969040, Singapore: (65) 653 26464, Washington D.C: (1202) 223-3238, Yangon: (95) 1389520.