

## AGRICULTURE EXPORT POLICY

The India, with a large and diverse agriculture, is among the world's leading producer of cereals, milk, sugar, fruits and vegetables, spices, eggs and seafood products. Indian agriculture continues to be the backbone of our society and it provides livelihood to nearly 50 per cent of our population. India is supporting 17.84 per cent of world's population, 15% of livestock population with merely 2.4 per cent of world's land and 4 per cent water resources. Hence, continuous innovation and efforts towards productivity, pre & post-harvest management, processing and value-addition, use of technology and infrastructure creation is an imperative for Indian agriculture. Various studies on fresh fruits and vegetables, fisheries in India have indicated a loss percentage ranging from about 8% to 18% on account of poor post-harvest management, absence of cold chain and processing facilities.. India is currently ranked tenth amongst the major exporters globally as per WTO trade data for 2016. India's share in global exports of agriculture products has increased from 1% a few years ago, to 2.2 % in 2016. Recent growth rates show that agri-food production is rising faster than growth in domestic demand, and volume of surplus for export is witnessing accelerated growth. This offers scope and opportunity for capturing overseas markets to earn foreign exchange and enable producers to earn higher prices for farm produce.

**Objective and Vision:** A dynamic nation of 1.3 billion consumers with rising discretionary incomes, changing food patterns, vast farming area, diverse agriculture and a large population dependent on agriculture has propelled India to the world's center stage as a big consumer market and also as a key supplier of food products. It has often been suggested that an essential

element of "Make in India" has to be "Bake in India", i.e. a renewed focus on value addition and on processed agricultural products. The rapidly growing global population and shrinking farmlands, coupled with changing socio-economic, agro climatic and dietary patterns, have challenged scientists and policymakers to reconsider how we grow and feed 7.5 billion global citizens. The vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to double farmer's income by 2022 would require a series of interventions to improve production and productivity, better price realization for farm produce, along with economizing the cost of production. There has been a long felt need for a dedicated agricultural export policy in India. The need for a dedicated policy under Department of Commerce (DoC) overarching umbrella arises due to the federal and administrative structure of the Union and State government. While the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmer Welfare (DAC&FW) and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF) focus on production, pre-harvest and boosting farmer income, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) focuses on value addition, post-harvest losses and employment generation. The DoC, on the other hand, is focused on foreign trade across sectors. There is an increasing need for the Government of India to establish a stable and predictable Agriculture Export Policy which aims at reinvigorating the entire value chain from export oriented farm production and processing to transportation, infrastructure and market access. The Agriculture Export Policy has to be dovetailed with existing framework for agriculture and surplus agricultural produce. There is a symbiotic relationship between a framework for sustainable agriculture on the one hand and a viable Agriculture Export Policy on

the other. There is a need to craft a policy that will deliver incomes into the pockets of farmer through crucial export opportunities.

**India's Agriculture Export Policy – Objective:**

- To double agricultural exports from present ~US\$ 30+ Billion to ~US\$ 60+ Billion by 2022 and reach US\$ 100 Billion in the next few years thereafter, with a stable trade policy regime.
- To diversify our export basket, destinations and boost high value and value added agricultural exports including focus on perishables.
- To promote novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional Agri products exports.
- To provide an institutional mechanism for pursuing market access, tackling barriers and deal with sanitary and phytosanitary issues.
- To strive to double India's share in world agri exports by integrating with global value chain at the earliest.
- Enable farmers to get benefit of export opportunities in overseas market.

**India's Agriculture Export Policy-Vision:** Harness export potential of Indian agriculture, through suitable policy instruments, to make India global power in agriculture and raise farmers income.

**INDIAN NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR STANDARDIZATION**

The rapid growth of the Indian economy, its size and emerging relevance in global trade, makes it essential to establish a robust 'Quality Ecosystem' in India with a harmonized, dynamic and mature standards framework. This would fuel economic growth and enhance the 'Brand India' label. Standards have been widely recognized as catalysts for technical development, industrial growth, the well being of the society and more recently for convergence of new and emerging technologies. The growing influence of standards and technical regulations, and corresponding conformity assessment procedures on trade and

commerce has been recognized worldwide through the agreements on technical Barrier to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of WTO. Countries are accordingly evolving strategies to synergize standardization work with technological, social and economic development at the national level as well as for playing influencing roles in global standardization efforts.

The INSS provides direction for India's political and executive leadership on how best to use standardization, technical regulations, quality infrastructure and related activities to advance the interests and well being of Indians in a global economy.

It is based on the following considerations:

1. Positioning standards as a key driver of all economic activities relating to goods and services.
2. Developing a comprehensive ecosystem in India for standards development taking into account the diversity of interests and expertise available.
3. Using standards for providing a level playing field to domestic industry and enhancing the competitiveness of Indian goods and services in domestic and international markets.
4. Adopting best practices in standardization, conformity assessment and accreditation, and technical regulations, roadmaps and institutions for their effective management.
5. Playing an active role and taking leadership positions in apex international fora in the related areas.
6. Creating response mechanisms to global developments on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment that impact market access of Indian goods and services.
7. Aligning the strategy with other national policies related to trade and industry, consumers and environment.

## **NATIONAL RUBBER POLICY 2019**

The National Rubber Policy (NRP) envisages a well-developed value-chain of environmentally sustainable and globally competitive rubber industry, comprising natural and other forms of rubber and products thereof and ancillary sectors, capable of supplying materials and products of international standards to domestic and world markets, with focus on welfare of the entire stakeholder community and national economic progress.

1. To promote overall sustainability of the Rubber Industry with respect to economic, social and environmental dimensions
2. To provide required focus towards development of the entire Rubber Industry value chain from upstream production to downstream manufacturing activities.
3. To strategize towards increase in area under Natural Rubber by new planting without causing any adverse impact on forests/natural ecosystems and food security.
4. To facilitate increase in average national rubber productivity through appropriate agro management practices including systematic replanting and ensuring better income for the growers.

5. To strategize towards meeting of raw material requirement of domestic industry through domestic production as far as possible.
6. To promote activities for ensuring quality of processed forms of NR at par with international standards.
7. To promote the development of rubber product manufacturing sector and facilitate export of quality rubber products.

The policy envisages for an implementation framework to be put in place to deliver on the policy commitments. An institutional mechanism in form of the Rubber Board set up under the Rubber Act 1947 already exists to regulate and promote development of Natural Rubber which shall be the nationally designated agency for this purpose. The National Rubber Policy recommendations would be implemented through synergy with various Ministries/Departments and in unison with concerned state governments. Periodic review to deliberate on the future course of action and suggest corrective or further actions as may be necessary would be done by the Central Government.

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***\*Disclaimer: The content of this newsletter is intended to provide a general guide on the subject matter and should not be construed as legal opinion.***

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