



BASAI News Updates

Oct. 15, 2022

INVITES PROPOSALS

Under Challenge Call*

for
**Development, validation & pre-commercialization
of products/technologies**
in the areas of



**i4 (Intensifying the Impact
of Industrial Innovation)**

Supports industry through:

- **SBIRI** (Small Business Innovation Research Initiative)
- **BIPP** (Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme)

**PACE (Promoting Academic
Research Conversion to Enterprise)**

Supports academia through:

- **AIR** (Academic Innovation Research)
- **CRS** (Contract Research Scheme)

*Refer to RFP for information on Priority Areas

For online application, Scheme Details and RFP, please log on to BIRAC website (www.birac.nic.in)

Last date for submission of proposals 30th November, 2022 (up to 5:30 pm)

For queries, please contact: GM & Head - Investment, BIRAC. Email: investment.birac@gov.in

Karnal wheat institute commences seed distribution to Punjab farmers

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, OCTOBER 14
Around 2,500 farmers from various districts of Punjab today reached ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley (IIWBR) to get the biofortified wheat varieties, which they had booked through an online portal.

The farmers preferred DBW-327, DBW-303 and DBW-332 varieties of the wheat. Apart from these, DBW-187, and DBW-222 was also the choice of the farmers.

Dr GP Singh, Director of the ICAR-IIWBR, said, the distribution of the seeds of these varieties started today. Farmers from Patiala, Bathinda, Mansa, Amritsar, Barnala, Ferozpur and other districts came to collect the seeds today. Farmers from the remaining districts have been asked to come on Monday.

"We have asked the farmers

State farmers asked to come on Tuesday



Punjab farmers collect seeds of biofortified wheat varieties from ICAR-IIWBR in Karnal on Friday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

to reach here as per the schedule fixed by the institute scientists. After Punjab, farmers from Haryana have been called on Tuesday. Then farmers of other states including UP, MP, Rajasthan, and Delhi have been asked to come," the director said.

He added that each farmer was given 10-kg seeds, so that

they can produce their own seed in the coming year.

Farmers appreciated the seed distribution system and said that the varieties have given good returns. "I came from Bathinda to get seeds of DBW-303 variety. I cultivated it and received good yield even in harsh environment," Satnam Singh, a farmer, said.

PM's Secretary satisfied with steps to curb smog

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 14
Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, PK Mishra, has expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by the state government to prevent air pollution in the NCR region.

He has also appreciated the incentives being given by the state to farmers to curb stubble burning.

He made the comments when he was presiding over a virtual meeting today on the management of air pollution with the Chief Secretaries of Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab.

He said Haryana Government had done commendable work toward reducing air pollution in the NCR region. He said that other states should also follow the steps taken by the Haryana Government to make the environment clean in the NCR region.

Grain stock dips, govt says 'sufficient' for distribution

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14
After wheat, the rice stock in the Central pool recorded a dip this October as the last year, amid weather vagaries.

According to the FCI data, wheat and rice stocks stand around 432.13 lakh tonnes (wheat: 227.46 LMT; rice: 204.67 LMT) against 721.78 LMT (wheat: 468.52 LMT; rice 253.26 LMT) last year. The stock of the unmilled paddy in the corresponding period last year was 118.25 LMT.

While wheat at 227.5 LMT is at a six-year low (though still over minimum buffer of 205.2 LMT), the rice stock, including the unmilled paddy, is higher than the required levels, making the overall cereal stocks position "comfortable". Officials say there is sufficient foodgrain in stock and that there will be no deficiency in fulfilling commitments under various government schemes.

However, the government has to make do with the existing wheat stock for the next six months till the new crop arrives. At the current consumption rate, around 20 to 21 LMT wheat is required every month. As per the norms, 44.60 LMT as operational stock and 30 LMT as strategic reserves should be available on April 1, when the



432 LT IN STOCK

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next crop starts arriving.

The heat wave in Punjab and Haryana affected the wheat crop, resulting in shrivelled grain. The next crop is expected to arrive in the mandis beginning April 1, 2023. Till then, the country has to rely on its existing stock, which is the reason the government increased the quota of rice in free ration, which was objected to by states where wheat is consumed.

Kharif production (largely rice) is also expected to fall this season due to irregular rains and crop diversification. Farmers say incessant rains flattened standing paddy crop, delayed harvest and dam-

aged the quality of grain and yield. Meanwhile, the Centre recently extended by three months the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) — the programme to provide free rations to India's 80 crore poor.

Under the scheme, 122 LMT grain will be provided to more than the poor at a cost of over Rs 44,762 crore. The scheme was started in April 2020 to help people whose livelihoods were affected by a nationwide lockdown but most states wanted it to continue.

According to the first advance estimates for the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), the foodgrain production is estimated at 149.92 million tonnes as against 156.04 million tonnes in the previous season.

Notably, the Expenditure Department under the Finance Ministry is also believed to have advised against extending the scheme on food security and fiscal grounds. The government has also placed restrictions on the export of wheat and broken rice.

However, as the sudden ban on exports of the broken rice prevented the loading of cargo, India yesterday permitted the shipment of 3.97 LMT backed by letters of credit issued before September 8, according to a government notification on Wednesday.