

	Sikkim	Bronze
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#### Mission Aboard

Rank	State	Award
	Consulate General of India, Vancouver	Gold
	Consulate General of India, New York	Silver
	High Commission of India, Nicosia	Bronze

The ceremony represents a notable step in our nation's progress towards the 'Vocal for Local' initiative. It provides a platform for exchanging best practices and discussing ODOPI initiative's future. The event brought together senior government representatives from State and UT, District Administrations, and Indian Missions abroad, recognizing their roles in this national effort.

Source: [pib.gov.in](https://pib.gov.in)

### Indonesia seeks 900,000 tonne onion from India amid export ban.

Jan 04, 2024



Indonesia has sought 900,000 tonne of onion from India amid the ban on exports, a top government official said. This assumes significance as India is the largest trade partner in ASEAN, and imports onions mostly from the US, India and New Zealand.

The request comes after India imposed a 40% export tax on onions last August, followed by a minimum export price of \$800 per tonne in December to ensure domestic supply and prices due to a crop shortfall. Despite these measures, high prices led to a complete export ban in December, effective from the 2023-24 financial year.

'After India's export ban on onion, traders and importers in Indonesia have been requesting Indian onion, and there is a demand for 900,000 tonnes of onions worth \$100,000 has been sent to the Indian government,' the official said.

India accounts for about a fourth of the global onion output and is the largest exporter after the Netherlands and Mexico.

In April-October of the ongoing financial year, India exported 1.4 million tonne (mt) of onions, including 36,146 tonne to Indonesia. During the corresponding period of FY23, of the kitchen staple. In FY23, India's onion export totalled 2.5 mt, including 116,695 tonnes to Indonesia, according to data from the commerce and industry ministry and export data.

'The Embassy has not received any information on this issue. Factually, Indonesia is also a producer of onion, particularly small size red onion. In 2023, Indonesia has imported 194.107 tonne, and out of this, total import from India is only 79.000 tonne,' the Indonesian embassy in New Delhi said.

Queries sent to the spokespersons of consumer affairs, food & public distribution and commerce and industry ministries remained unanswered till the publishing time of this report.

'After the export ban, our containers were detained at the port gate. We have requested the government to allow the export of containers which have been cleared by customs. Hoge, a Mumbai-based agri export consultant.

'The exporters sold at ₹20 a kg in the local market after paying ₹45 for crops, packing, labour, stuffing, transport freight, clearance charges, and sea freight. Around ₹25 per kg by the exporters for each container,' he said. Exporters also suffered heavy losses at the Bangladesh border.

Production challenges, including erratic rains and extended dry spells, have impacted onion output in the kharif and late kharif (monsoon sowing) seasons. This led to a reduction in cultivation area and production, intensifying the political debate ahead of the national election.

On Wednesday, the average retail price of onion was at ₹41.12 a kg, 49.6% higher than the previous year, according to official data.

Onion cultivation area declined nearly 96% year-on-year to 8.6 million hectares (mh) in top grower Maharashtra in the 2023-24 kharif season. Production of the vegetable fell to 750,000 tonne in the state.

In Karnataka, the second largest grower, acreage shrank by about 75% to around 11 mh and production by 43.3% from the previous kharif season to 770,000 tonnes, according to ministry sources.

As per the government's preliminary assessment, India may have produced 3 million tonnes (mt) and 1.5 mt of onion in the 2023-24 kharif and late kharif seasons, respectively, significantly lower than the 4.1 mt and 2.4 mt produced in the respective seasons last year.

In the previous rabi season, onion production stood at 24.6 mt. Average monthly domestic consumption was 1.4-1.7 mt, but that may be lower now depending on the price.

In the 2022-23 crop year, India had produced 30 mt of onions.

'If we look at the data of the last few years, onion farmers have been suffering losses. Despite unseasonal rains, hailstorms and the current drought, the farmers are standing their way through the conflicting conditions,' Hoge said.

Farmers borrow from banks or cooperative societies for crop cultivation, but in the last few years, the debt burden on farmers has increased significantly, he said. 'The central government does not give any direct subsidy when onions were selling at ₹2 per kg. However, the government intervenes regularly to control rising market prices,' Hoge added.

The absence of exporters from markets due to the ban has depressed onion prices, with further declines anticipated in the coming days.

Source: [livemint.com](https://livemint.com)

### Development of Agriculture-Horticulture Sector in North Eastern Region.

Jan 04, 2024

North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. (NERAMAC) is a PSU under Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. It supports farmers/ producers to obtain remunerative prices for their produce, as well as to enhance the agricultural, procurement, processing & marketing infrastructure of the Region.

NERAMAC procured more than 140 MT of produces like Pineapple, Avocado, Black Rice, Cashew nut, Large Cardamom, Cinnamon, and Black Pepper etc. in 2023-24. It also provided market linkages for fresh pineapple and other vegetables. NERAMAC has product basket of 130+ products in the retail segment.



entrepreneurs/MSMEs associated with NERAMAC for branding and marketing of their processed products. Retail products are marketed through outlets of NERAMAC covering seven cities/towns. Including two, One Station One Product (OSOP) stalls at Kamakhya and Dimapur Railway stations.

NERAMAC also launched Brand 'NERAMAC Premium' for marketing of G.I. tagged products. NERAMAC has facilitated the User Authorization for all 13 G.I. registered Agri-Horti products during the year. This is a significant milestone for development of the agri-horti sector.

Under the scheme "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)" of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, 205 FPOs across NEER covering 15,500 farmers.

NERAMAC participated/organized 17 events and covered around 2000 farmers/entrepreneurs. During the year, Cashew Processing Plant (CPP) of NERAMAC at Agartala functioning with the fund support from NEC and Integrated Ginger Processing Plant (IGPP) at Byrnihat, Meghalaya revived under PPP mode.

North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC) completed plantation of 900 hectare in the three districts of Assam, which covered 3.30 lakh sapling beneficiaries.

Capacity building, skill up gradation and trainings are the main activity of ECBDC. During the period, ECBDC conducted 21 training /skilled development training programs trained more than 463 persons in cane and bamboo.

The Bamboo Based Craft Concentration Centre at Sovima Village, Dimapur, Nagaland funded by North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of DoNER, Government of India (Rs.448.46 Lakh) was completed and inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Nagaland Shri Neiphiu Rio on 22nd November 2023 in the presence of many dignitaries. The Centre will promote traditional and modern Handloom and Handicrafts of Nagaland for domestic and international market.

Around 115 occupational Health Safety Kit was also distributed to artisans of ECBDC Clusters of Assam and Manipur.

Source: [pib.gov.in](https://pib.gov.in)

### **'Rising health consciousness to perk up global cashew demand'.**

Jan 04, 2024



With the demand for cashew remaining robust, the markets – both domestic and global – have remained vibrant in 2023, driven mainly by the growing demand for the commodity as a health-conscious snack choice.

The rising awareness of nutritional benefits of cashew, particularly in western markets, has augmented the sales, especially when the consumers seek healthier snack alternatives. However, the demand was also subject to fluctuations due to the residual impacts of the Covid pandemic, which disrupted spending patterns and disrupted global supply chains, said J Rajmohan Pillai, Chairman of Beta Group which owns the brand NutKing.

On the pricing front, he said the cashew industry witnessed significant volatility due to supply chain challenges, including increased logistics costs and production inefficiencies. Direct impact on prices. Besides, weather anomalies in key cashew-producing regions like West Africa and Southeast Asia led to fluctuations in crop yields, thereby affecting prices. The geopolitical landscape, particularly trade policies and international relations involving major cashew-exporting countries, also played a critical role in shaping the market.

#### **Rapid shift**

In India, he said the cashew market has seen a rapid shift in the consumption pattern in recent years, primarily owing to flavoured assorted cashew products occupying a significant share of the retail market space. However, the market is likely to be hampered as the local population prefers other lighter snacks, available at lower prices, for on-the-go snacking.

#### **Largest consumer**

Quoting figures, he said India remains the world's largest consumer of cashews, processing almost half of global cashew kernels and consuming 40 per cent of the global supply. The size is expected to grow from \$2.31 billion in 2023 to \$2.79 billion by 2028.

On the prospects in 2024, Pankaj N Sampat of Samsun Traders said, 'we can expect the market to be steady. Downside is very limited. Unless something dramatic happens there will not be any big jump in prices. But I have a strong feeling that prices in 2024 will be somewhat higher than the lows we have seen in Q2/Q3 of 2023.'

Cashew supply, according to him, has been comfortable for the last few years mainly because of built-up over-supply, which is almost completely used up. There is not much increase in supply in the short term. On the contrary, there is some doubt about what impact El Niño will have on the 2024 crop, especially in Vietnam and Cambodia.

There is a reasonable possibility of a rise in consumption due to the lower prices and better availability, coupled with a good probability of economic growth in most countries,

Source: [thehindubusinessline.com](https://thehindubusinessline.com)

### **India notifies 8,606 tonnes of raw cane sugar exports to US under TRQ.**

Jan 04, 2024



The government on Wednesday notified exports of 8,606 tonnes of raw cane sugar under the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) scheme to the US for the current year. Shipments under the TRQ enjoy relatively lesser customs duties. After the quota is reached, a higher tariff applies to additional imports.

'The quantity of 8,606 MTRV raw cane sugar to be exported to USA under TRQ scheme from 01.10.2023 to 30.09.2024 has been notified,' the Ministry of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a public notice.

India, the world's second-biggest producer and the largest consumer of sugar, has a preferential quota arrangement for sugar export with the European Union as well. The quota will be operated by Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

In July 2023, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) had announced the country-specific (including from India) and first-come, first-served in-quota allocative import of raw cane sugar, refined and specialty sugar, and sugar-containing products for Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024).

TRQs allow countries to export specified quantities of a product to the United States at a relatively low tariff, but subject all imports of the product above a pre-determined tariff.

Source: [economictimes.indiatimes.com](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com)

### **India's wheat output may touch new record of 114 million tonnes in 2023-24.**

Jan 04, 2024



Wheat production is expected to touch a new record of 114 million tonnes in the ongoing 2023-24 crop year on higher coverage and provided the weather remains normal, a top food ministry official said on Wednesday. The last leg of sowing of wheat, the main rabi (winter) crop, is underway and will continue till the end of the month. Till last week, wheat was planted in 320.54 lakh hectares, as per the official data.

Wheat production stood at a record 110.55 million tonnes in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), compared to 107.7 million tonnes achieved in the 2021-22 crop year.

'We expect that total area under cultivation of wheat will increase this year and God willing if the climate is alright the production will be 114 million tonnes that's what we have indicated informally to us,' Food Corporation of India (FCI) Chairman and Managing Director Ashok K Meena told reporters.