

Govt approves import of 1.6 mt urea

Indian Potash gets 15 firms mainly from Russia, Egypt to supply at below \$1,000/tonne

PRABHUDEVI MISHRA
New Delhi, November 25
The Fertiliser Ministry has approved import of about 1.6 million tonnes (mt) of urea, estimated to cost \$1.5 billion (nearly ₹11,500 crore) and it would be shipped in by Indian Potash Ltd (IPL) on government account to help improve domestic supplies.

Of the total import, about 1 mt will arrive at ports on the West Coast while 0.6 mt will be on the East Coast, a Fertiliser Ministry official said. As many as 15 companies have signed contract for the urea supply after the government's approval, the official said.

The maximum quantity of 0.9 mt has been contracted at \$981.64/tonne, while another 0.6 mt will come at \$998.5, sources said, adding a small quantity of less than a lakh tonne would be imported at

about \$960/tonne (all cost and freight basis).

Canalising agencies
On November 3, while notifying IPL and National Fertiliser Ltd (NFL) as canalising agencies for import of urea on behalf of government, the government has also removed public sector MMTC and STC. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) continues to be a canalising agency. Since the maximum retail price of urea is fixed and the government bears the entire subsidy, the import is regulated to ensure prices are not inflated.

While India produces 24-25 mt of urea, about 9-10 mt are imported annually to meet the demand. The requirement of urea is assessed by the government and imports are allowed periodically based on demand, supply and prices. India was re-



While India produces 24-25 million tonnes of urea, about 9-10 mt are imported annually to meet domestic demand

ported to have imported about one mt of urea from China during April-July this year, before the neighbouring country banned export due to a domestic shortage. Now, Russia and Egypt are the major sources.

IPL, which opted out to be a canalising agency in 2018 and has been forced by the government this time, has been successful in reducing the import prices and secured the agreement from exporters to deliver at Indian ports by December 31. "It is a great achievement to finalise the contracts in a few days that too when many coun-

tries are struggling to get urea after China, Russia and Egypt restricted/tightened their supplies," an industry official said. Even as some companies signed contracts at \$1,000/tonne free-on-board (FoB) to supply from Egypt, the participation of Russia's largest producer Eurochem in the IPL tender helped in lowering the prices, sources said.

Urea has a share of 55 per cent in the country's overall fertiliser consumption, estimated at about 61 mt in 2019-20. As non-urea (MoP, DAP and complex) varieties cost higher, farmers prefer to use more urea

than actually needed. The maximum retail price (MRP) of a 45-kg bag of urea is ₹242 and that of a 50-kg bag is ₹268, all prices exclusive of charges towards neem coating and taxes as applicable, against ₹1,200 for a 50-kg bag of DAP.

The Centre has not changed the MRP of urea since 2012, when it was increased by ₹50/tonne to ₹5,360.

Supply-demand

According to Fertiliser Ministry data, the requirement of urea during April-September for the kharif sowing season was 17.75 mt, whereas the availability was 20.82 mt and sales were to the tune of 16.56 mt. For the on-going rabi sowing, demand has been pegged at 17.9 mt for entire season, whereas the availability was 5.44 mt as on November 24, while 4.41 mt of urea has already been sold since October 1. This leaves about 8 mt of urea to be made available to the farmers in the remaining period.

India to export over 2 mt wheat in next 2 months

SUBRAMANIAM MANCOMBU

Chennai, November 25

India has signed deals to export over two million tonnes (mt) of wheat during December-January as the foodgrain is being offered at an attractive price in South-East, South and West Asia amidst tight global supplies, according to trade sources.

"Wheat exports are doing well. Currently, we have orders to export 2-2.5 mt of wheat at hand during December-January. We should be exporting over 4 mt for the current fiscal," said Rajnikant Rai, Divisional Chief Executive, ITC Agri-Business.

Current prices

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of US Department of Agriculture (USDA), in its latest "Grain: World Market and Trade", raised its projections for India's wheat exports to 5.25 mt from 4.5 mt earlier as it finds New Delhi prices competitive in nearby markets.

"Exports are currently being contracted at \$325 a tonne free-on-board (FOB) against \$265 when we started shipping earlier this fiscal," said Rai.

USDA said India's export prices in August averaged \$265 and enjoyed an advantage of lower freight rates to neighbouring countries. Indian wheat is currently being shipped to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, and West Asia. Wheat is also exported to Nepal by road.

Wheat from Black Sea, originating from Ukraine and other erstwhile Soviet Union members, is currently quoted at \$358.50 for delivery in January.

H1 shipments soar

According to Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) data, wheat exports in

the first half of the fiscal surged to 2.34 mt valued at ₹4,590 crore against 0.4mt valued at ₹812 crore during the year-ago period.

The export orders have helped wheat prices rise to near the minimum support price (MSP) level of ₹1,975 a quintal for the 2020-21 rabi season. Prices in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are ruling around ₹1,950.

Mukesh Singh, Director, MuBala Agri Commodities Pvt Ltd, said some exporters, including him, are off the export market since there was no parity after domestic prices increased. "We export on a thin margin. Bangladesh buyers are smart and bargain. On the other hand, transport charges have been raised marginally here. But exporters have begun to source wheat from Uttar Pradesh," he said.



OMMS to millers' rescue

Domestic flour millers have expressed concern over wheat exports but a South India-based miller said they were meeting their requirements by purchasing the foodgrain from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) through the open market sale scheme (OMSS).

Under OMSS, FCI offers wheat produced last year and this year at specified prices depending on specifications to millers and small traders. As on November 1, FCI had 41.98 mt of wheat against the Centre's mandatory norm to carry 17.5 mt of operational stocks and 3 mt of strategic reserve.

The USDA said Indian wheat stocks, which have moved in the opposite direction when global stocks have dropped, make up 10 per cent of total stocks across the world. "With larger crops and government procurement, India wheat stocks have ballooned well above desired buffer stock levels," it said.

ORGANIC PRODUCTS EXPORT

'End APEDA's supervision of certifying agencies'

US body, German consultant oppose EU derecognition of five agencies

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, November 25

US-based Alliance for Organic Integrity (AOI), which unites key players in the organic sector, has suggested to the European Committee on Organic Production to withdraw its approval for the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to supervise organic products exports certifying bodies or agencies (CBs).

In a feedback on organic farming — trading products (implementing rules, AOI that claims to strengthen the integrity of organic guarantees) said the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) had withdrawn its approval of APEDA and "we con-

sider it as a more appropriate reaction" with reference to the EU blacklisting five CBs from certifying organic products exports from India to the European Commission.

The Alliance joins four other European Union organisations — Organic Processing and Trade Association (OPTA), Europe, SYNABIO, BioNederland and Association for Organic Food producers — that deal with organic products in asking the EU Committee on Organic Production to stop APEDA from supervising the certifying agencies.

ETO norm violations

The efforts by these organisations come on the heels of the



European Committee on Organic Production derecognising five CBs — CU Inspections India, Ecocert India, Indian Organic Certification Agency (Indocert), Lacon Quality Certifications and OneCert International — for their failure to meet the norms for ethylene oxide (ETO) presence in organic consignments imported into EU, particularly

sesame (til/gingelly). Barring OneCert International, a US-based firm, the rest are CBs based in Europe. Trade analysts see these moves as part of concerted efforts to undermine APEDA's role in organic produce exports.

The EU withdrew recognition, valid till 2026, to the five firms from certifying organic product exports from India after it issued at least 90 notifications over the past few months. The five derecognised agencies certified close to 80 per cent of organic products exported to Europe from India. APEDA officials chose not to comment over the development.

S Chandrasekaran, a Delhi-based trade analyst, said the move by these organisations was aimed at dictating terms on behalf of the certifying agencies

and intervening with India's sovereign rights. However, APEDA followed up the derecognition of the five firms by suspending accreditation to Aditi Organic Certification for a year and banning four others — CU Inspections India, ECOCERT India, Indian Organic Certification Agency (Indocert) and OneCert International — from registering any new organic processor or exporter for organic products certification after some shipments cleared by them failed to meet the norms for ETO presence.

In a related development, an international strategy and management consultancy in the organic sector, Organic Services GmbH, told the European Committee on Organic Production Chair Elena Panichi to follow the USDA example of not accepting the system supervised by APEDA.

KisanKraft eyes SAARC, Africa for farm equipment exports

VISHWANATH KULKARNI

Bengaluru, November 25

Bengaluru-based KisanKraft Pvt Ltd, a farm equipment maker focussed on small and medium farmers, is eyeing the overseas markets in SAARC, West Asia and Africa.

The company expects to start shipping farm equipment such as inter-cultivators and brush cutters manufactured at its Nellore plant from early next year, said Ravindra Agarwal, Promoter and Managing Director, KisanKraft Ltd. It has a manufacturing capacity of 75,000 inter-cultivators per year.

Till recently, the company used to import these equipments from its principals in China.

"We have been getting enquiries from West Asia and Africa," Agarwal said, adding that the company expects to announce some significant orders soon.

The company has been exporting its China-made products from China to Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Now, we will be exporting these products manufactured at Nellore unit, he said. The company



Ravindra Agarwal, Promoter and MD KisanKraft Ltd

has started manufacturing of BIS-ISI certified engines, water pumps and inter-cultivators at its Nellore facility.

Additional investment

KisanKraft is also making additional investment of ₹25 crore in its Nellore facility to manufacture sprayers, brushcutters, chainsaws among other equipment, Agarwal said. "We are also working on manufacturing a few other products such as reapers," he said.

KisanKraft's expanded facility is expected to be operational in about six months, Agarwal said adding that the company is setting up testing plots on 30 acres next to the manufacturing units.

Heavy rainfall may lash TN, south AP coasts yet again

Sri Lanka declares 'low' over South-West Bay, IMD doesn't

VINSON KURIAN

Thiruvananthapuram, November 25

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has refused to take a call on a low-pressure area that the Sri Lanka Meteorological Department said, on Thursday morning, had formed over the south-east of the island nation and adjoining south-west Bay of Bengal.

In a noon update, the IMD did not upgrade the status of the system from that of a cyclonic circulation. It merely pointed to a circulation over the south-west Bay off South Sri Lanka coast but said that it has kicked up a strong barrage of north-easterly winds are over the Tamil Nadu coast and south coastal Andhra Pradesh coasts.

Heavy rain for five days

It will set off light to moderate scattered/fairly widespread rainfall over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Ray-

alseema, south interior Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal during next five days.

Isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal from today (Thursday) until Monday. Isolated heavy rainfall is also likely over south coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalseema on Friday and Saturday and isolated heavy to very heavy over south coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalseema on Saturday and Monday.

Isolated heavy rainfall may lash Kerala and Mahe until Monday. Squally wind with speeds reaching 40-50 km/hr gusting to 60 km/hr (almost depression-strength) may prevail over south-west Bay, the Comorin area, the Gulf of Mannar along and off the south Tamil Nadu coast on Thursday and Friday.

IMD defers call

Earlier on Thursday morning, the Sri Lankan national forecaster had declared the formation of a low-pressure area

and located it lying half over the south-east of Sri Lanka and half over the adjoining south-west Bay of Bengal.

On Wednesday, the IMD had delayed the formation of the 'low' by a day to Wednesday. By Thursday noon, it did not change the status of the system from being preparatory cyclonic circulation to anything higher (low-pressure area).

Future track of 'low'

Once confirmed, this 'low' is expected to move West-North-West towards Sri Lanka and the adjoining South Tamil Nadu coast. The delay in its formation is not the best advertisement in regard to its prospects for future growth and intensification but there have been exceptions in the past when the slow grind has helped it to spring a surprise.

The IMD's short-to-medium guidance puts it on a slow burn and on a course to the West past Sri Lanka into the South-East Arabian Sea before it heads towards Lakshadweep along the track cyclone Ockhi took four years ago.

Boarding Kisan Rail, farmers move Vazhakkulam pineapple to Delhi



Vazhakkulam pineapple consignments being loaded in Delhi-bound Nizamuddin Express from Ernakulam

OUR BUREAU

Kochi, November 25

Utilising the opportunity offered by Kisan Rail in moving cargoes, the All Kerala Pineapple Farmers Association has dispatched a consignment of GI-tagged Vazhakkulam pineapple from Kochi to Delhi by rail for the first time.

Less transport time

Normally, pineapple is sent to North India by road in trucks that will take five days to reach Delhi; while by rail, it will reach the destination in 50 hours and ensure consumers get fresh fruits.

James George Thottumariyil, President of the association, said they have sent 2.5 tonnes of the fruit in Delhi-bound Nizamuddin Express from Ernakulam South Railway station. The consignment is sent to Diem Agro LLP, an agri business start-up incubated at Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, and funded by RKVY-RAFTAAR scheme under the Agriculture Ministry.

Diem Agro is developing an online marketplace for fruit and vegetable farmers, especially for pineapple farmers in Kerala, to market their produce across the country. "With this new initiative, we can of-

fer fresher fruits to the market and if the experiment succeeds, we have big plans to send bigger consignments regularly," he said.

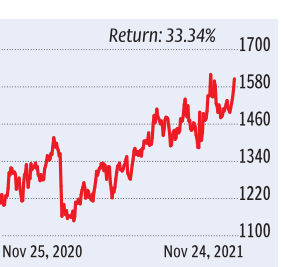
Good market in North

According to George, the GI-tagged Vazhakulam Pineapple is always getting attractive trade queries from north India and State Horticulture Mission-Kerala and the Railways have offered attractive incentives to send bigger consignments.

Presently, farmers in Kerala cultivate pineapple on around 18,000 hectares and produce 5.5 lakh tonnes of the fruit.

COMMODITY CALL

Bet long on MCX nickel



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The price of nickel, which saw a sharp rally in the first half of October, witnessed a swift decline in the last week of October.

Consequently, December futures on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) fell from a high of ₹1,625.9 to mark a low of ₹1,472 in early November.

But then, the decline was arrested and the contract started to move in the sideways range of ₹1,472 and ₹1,530.

Last week, the contract picked up considerable momentum resulting in the breakout of ₹1,530. On Wednesday, the contract closed above another important level of ₹1,575 as well, exhibiting strong bullish bias.

Supporting the same, the outstanding number of open interest (OIs) of all active nickel futures on the MCX increased to 2,590 contracts on Wednesday compared to 1,727 contracts a week ago. The price rise along with increase in OIs is a bullish sign. Also, the contract has bounced off the 50-day moving average and indicators like the RSI and the MACD are showing fresh uptick.

Thus, the contract is likely to extend the rally, move past the previous high of ₹1,625.9 and touch ₹1,700 in the near-term. Yet, it can pause at ₹1,670 briefly.

So, traders can buy nickel December futures at current level of ₹1,600 and accumulate if it falls to ₹1,570. Initial stop-loss can be at ₹1,540. On the upside, if the contract reaches ₹1,670, revise stop-loss to ₹1,625. Liquidate longs at ₹1,700.

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NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Section 108, 110 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, and Regulation 44 and 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements), Regulations 2015, General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, General Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, General Circular No. 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020 and General Circular No. 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars"), and any other applicable Laws and Regulations, that the approval of the members of the Company is being sought through a Postal Ballot (only through remote e-voting) for the following businesses to be passed by way of:

Ordinary Resolution:

- Appointment of Mr. M P Vijay Kumar (DIN: 05170323) as an Independent Director of the Company
- Appointment of Prof. Sebastian Morris (DIN: 00037228) as an Independent Director of the Company
- Appointment of Mr. Jones George (DIN: 06674021) as a Whole-time Director (designated as Executive Director) of the Company

Special Resolution

- To authorise Board to borrow funds pursuant to provisions of Section 180(1)(c) of the Companies Act, 2013 up to a limit not exceeding Rs. 650 Crores and to create charge / security on the assets of the Company for securing the borrowings of the Company pursuant to Section 180(1)(a) of the Companies Act, 2013.

All members are hereby informed that:

- The Company has completed dispatch of Postal Ballot Notice dated November 16, 2021 by e-mail on Thursday, November 25, 2021 to those shareholders who have registered their email id with the Company/RTA or their respective Depository Participants.
- In view of the continuing circumstances due to COVID-19 pandemic requiring social distancing and in compliance with the requirements of the MCA Circulars, hard copy of the Postal Ballot Notice along with the Postal Ballot forms and pre-paid business reply envelope will not be sent to the members for this Postal Ballot. The shareholders are required to communicate their assent or dissent through the remote e-voting system only.
- The Company has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) for the purpose of providing e-voting facility to all its Members.
- The voting through remote e-voting shall commence on Friday, November 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. (IST) and shall end on Saturday, December 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. (IST). The e-voting platform would be disabled by NSDL thereafter.
- The cut-off date for determining right of voting of members is: Friday, November 19, 2021.
- The Board of Directors of the Company has appointed Mr. Sathesh Kumar N, Practicing Company Secretary, as Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot/E-voting in a fair and transparent manner.
- The Postal Ballot Notice has been hosted on the website of the Company viz. www.geojit.com under 'Investor Relation' Section and on the website of the NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com.
- The updates of the Postal Ballot are also communicated to the Stock Exchanges where the shares of the Company are listed and the same can be viewed at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.
- The results of the Postal Ballot along with the Scrutinizer's Report will be announced on or before Tuesday, December 28, 2021 before 5:00 p.m. (IST) through the website of the Company viz. www.geojit.com and will also be communicated to NSE and BSE.
- The procedure for e-voting is available in the notice and at www.evoting.nsdl.com. In case of any grievance or query connected with e-voting, please refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for shareholders and e-voting user manual available for shareholders available at the downloads section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no. 1800-222-990 or send a request to Mr. Amit Vishal, NSDL at amitv@nsdl.co.in/ 22-24994360 or at evoting@nsdl.co.in. For other queries, members may contact the Registrar and Transfer Agent at M/s. S.K.D.C. Consultants Limited, "Surya": 35, Mayflower Avenue, Behind Senthil Nagar, Sowripalayam Road, Coimbatore - 641028. (Phone: 0422 4958995; Email: info@skdc-consultants.com).

For Geojit Financial Services Ltd

Sd/-

Place: Kochi
Date: 26.11.2021

Liju K Johnson
Company Secretary

