

Business Line. Dt: 20/09/23

Oilmeals export up 25.74% in August

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

Export of oilmeals increased to 3.54 lakh tonnes (lt) in August against 2.81 lt in August 2022, recording a growth of 25.74 per cent. According to Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), the overall export of oilmeals stood at 19.45 lt during April-August 2023-24 against 15.21 lt in the corresponding period of 2022-23, up by 27.85 per cent. BV Mehta, Executive Director of SEA, said India was outpriced in the international market in soyabean meal last year.

Stating that export revived during the current year, he said India exported 4.81 lt of soyabean meal during April-August of 2023-24 against 1.07 lt in the corresponding period of 2022-23. Mentioning that export of rapeseed meal is performing much better, he said the country exported 11.55 lt rapeseed



RALLY. 11.55 lt of rapeseed meal were exported in the first five months of 2023-24 against 10.77 lt in April-Aug 2022-23

meal in the first five months of 2023-24 against 10.77 lt in April-Aug of 2022-23.

India exported 1.51 lt (2.04 lt) of ricebran extractions, and 1.46 lt (1.29 lt) of castorseed meal during the period. Referring to the ban on the export of de-oiled ricebran, he said the country annually exports 5-6 lt of de-oiled ricebran mainly to Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Thailand. During April-July of this year, the country exported about 1.5 lt of de-oiled

ricebran. However, the government has prohibited export of de-oiled ricebran with effect from July 28 until November 30. This decision could have far-reaching consequences for domestic ricebran processors and export of de-oiled ricebran.

MAJOR IMPORTERS

"Neighbouring countries are the major export destinations for many solvent extraction units in Eastern States, includ-

ing West Bengal, producing de-oiled ricebran," he said.

During April-August, South Korea imported 3.82 lt of oilmeals (4.52 lt) from India. This included 2.91 lt of rapeseed meal, 68,732 tonnes of castorseed meal, and 21,600 tonnes of soyabean meal. Vietnam imported 2.85 lt of oilmeals (2.52 lt) from India during April-August. This included 90,540 tonnes of ricebran extraction, 1.44 lt of rapeseed meal, 49,044 tonnes of soyabean meal, and 748 tonnes of groundnut meal.

India exported 3.49 lt of oilmeals (3.17 lt) to Thailand during April-August. This included 3.37 lt of rapeseed meal, 6,115 tonnes of soyabean meal, 4,666 tonnes of ricebran extraction, and 701 tonnes of castorseed meal. Bangladesh imported 3.82 lt of oilmeals (1.66 lt) from India during April-August. This included 27,771 tonnes of ricebran extraction, 1.90 lt of rapeseed, and 1.63 lt of soyabean meal.

Business Live. Dt: 20/09/23

Rising imports affect black pepper prices, demand

V Sajeew Kumar

Kochi

Rising imports have kept black pepper prices steady in the domestic market over the past few days, affecting demand.

Against the domestic price of ₹631 per kg for ungarbled pepper, the consuming markets in North India are reported to have received imported commodities at their doorstep at ₹600-625. This, according to traders, has drastically reduced the demand for domestically produced pepper from Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Kishore Shamiji, president of Indian Pepper and Spices Traders Association (IPSTA), said pepper imports are on the higher side and stood at around 3,800 tonnes in August alone. The



farming community alleged that Vietnam pepper is clandestinely entering the domestic market at \$3,000-3,500 compared with \$8,025 for Indian pepper.

PLEA TO RAISE OUTPUT

According to Shamiji, domestic pepper demand is on the rise on account of increased procurement by masala manufacturers ahead of the festival season.

Meanwhile, the Indian Pepper & Spices Traders

Growers Planters Consortium - Kerala chapter has submitted a memorandum to a visiting Parliamentary Standing Committee, seeking measures to increase domestic pepper production. Indian pepper production stood at 65,000 tonnes against consumption of 85,000 tonnes, leading to dependence on imports.

The consortium wanted the committee to impress upon the Agriculture Ministry the need to support pepper farming at the grassroots to increase domestic production. Pepper production in 2024 is likely to be around 50,000 tonnes due to shortage of rains and this is expected to spur more imports. Speculative buying in the recent period has pushed pepper prices to newer heights but not brought any cheer to the farming community due to crop shortage.

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Crude oil imports slip to 10-month low in August

SLOWING DOWN. Dragged by Russia production cuts and refinery maintenance

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Crude oil imports by India, the world's third largest importer of the most critical fossil fuel, declined by almost 4 per cent M-o-M to 18.73 million tonnes (mt) in August largely due to production cuts by Russia and autumn refinery maintenance.

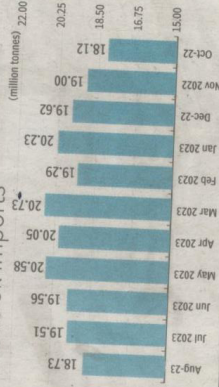
However, imports last month were higher on an annual basis by more than 6 per cent from 17.64 mt in August 2022.

According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), the in-bound shipments fell for the third consecutive month in August in line with voluntary production cuts by Russia, which also impacted its most sought after medium sour grade Ural.

Urals shipments from Russia to India in August slipped to its lowest levels since January this year.

The imports in August were also the lowest since November 2022. India imported 18.12 mt of crude

Crude oil imports



Source: Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC)

oil in October 2022. Besides, the import of crude oil during August is the lowest in FY24 and calendar year 2023.

LOWER CONSUMPTION

Trade sources said the decline in August was due to narrowing discounts on the Urals grade and smaller appetite from Indian refiners due to planned autumn maintenance at some refineries, and lower domestic demand on account of the rainy season till September.

However, India's monthly crude oil import bill rose to \$10.9 billion in

the shipments to China and India slumped to 3.9 million barrels per day (mb/d) in August 2023 from 4.7 mb/d in April and May 2023 but accounted for more than half the total volumes.

According to IEA data, the world's top two crude oil consumers accounted for 80 per cent of Russia's total exports during May to July this year.

DEMAND TO APPRECIATE

A senior oil marketing company official said that fuel demand will rise during the October-December quarter due to heightened industrial, mining, construction and farm activity.

The festival season preparations by FMCG and FMCD companies will also propel consumption.

According to OPEC, India's oil demand is expected to decelerate slightly, but is forecast to show a Y-o-Y growth of 243,000 barrels per day in Q4 2023, with transportation fuels – notably gasoline, diesel for transportation, and jet/kerosene – driving the growth.

August from \$10.3 billion in July 2023 as global prices edged up following voluntary production cuts by Saudi Arabia and Russia. The import bill was lower on an annual basis.

The price of Brent Crude averaged \$86.22 per barrel during August 2023 as against \$80.05 in July 2023 and \$99.99 barrel in August 2022.

The Indian basket crude price averaged \$86.43 per barrel in August 2023 against \$80.37 during July 2023 and \$97.40 in August 2022.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA),

Petroleum product exports up 9% m-o-m in August

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), petroleum products exports last month were the highest in FY24 and the second highest in the current calendar year.

"Further, the domestic consumption of diesel has been lower in July and August compared with previous months as monsoon restricted mobility and demand from the farm sector to an extent. The international gasoil prices have been increasing in the ongoing quarter on account of seasonal



	April	May	June	July	August
	2023	2023	2022	2023	2023
	2023	2022	2022	2023	2022
Volume (mt)	4.4	5.4	5.3	5.7	5.4
	5.2	5.2	5.5	5.4	5.0
Value (\$ bn)	3.3	5.8	3.6	6.5	6.1
	4.1	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9

Source: PPAC
 Volume: million tonnes (mt)
 Value: Dollar / billion

Besides, the sanctions on Russian refined products to Europe with effect from February 2023 have also impacted supplies. Exports of the other auto fuel, gasoline, fell in August. Petrol exports declined by 6.7 percent m-o-m to 1.17

"The international product prices of ATF were on an increasing trend in the last few months resulting in healthy

Similarly, exports of fuel oil, which is also called industrial fuel oil, have more than doubled on a monthly basis to 300,000 tonnes in August 2023. After a subdued start in April its shipments have risen consistently in the next four months. Vassih attributed the higher exports to lower production of fuel oil globally because of production cuts of heavier grades of crude oil by OPEC+.

Exports from the world's fourth largest refiner are likely to soften beginning September due to autumn maintenance at refineries and stocking of auto fuels ahead of the festival October-December season, when domestic fuel consumption picks up.