Unpredictable Farm Export Policy May Affect 112 Districts' Performance: WTC

To utilise the untapped agriculture export potential in the country, India needs to incentivise export-oriented value addition by ensuring policy stability in agriculture export sector, the report stated.

Centre’s restriction on export of primary and processed agriculture commodities such as rice, wheat, semolina, maida and sugar in recent months may affect exports and farm income in 112 districts which are dealing in the shipment of these commodities, said World Trade Center (WTC) Mumbai in a report.

The report stated these export restrictive measures will adversely impact the farm income and export-oriented activities across 112 districts that are cultivating or processing these commodities.

In order to prevent the shortage of essential primary and processed food commodities in the domestic market, the government prohibited or imposed an export duty on the shipment of these commodities in recent months.

In May, the centre restricted the export of raw, refined and white sugar by requiring exporters to seek permission from the Directorate of Sugar, Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

On September 9, India prohibited the export of broken rice and imposed a duty on export of brown rice and wholly milled rice.

On August 27, India prohibited export of maida, wheat, flour, semolina and wholemeal atta.

In 2018, the union government introduced an Agriculture Export Policy to enhance farm exports from USD 30 billion to more than USD 100 billion in the next few years.
In 2021-22, India’s export of agriculture and allied commodities stood at USD 50 billion, the report mentioned.

"Out of 11,127 goods exported from India, 1,401 are agriculture and related commodities such as dairy, meat, fish, beverages and other processed goods. These 1,401 agriculture and related commodities are exported by 492 districts across the country," the report stated.

Meanwhile, India is the second largest producer of food grains, fruits, vegetables, pulses, groundnut, sugar and other commodities, it ranks eighth in world export of agro products.
MVIRDC signs MoU with Bengaluru-based IIWM on trade, sustainability

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The MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai has entered into a strategic alliance with Bengaluru-based International Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) to promote sustainability concepts in bilateral trade, investments, technology transfers, joint ventures and other forms of business collaborations.

The two organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will facilitate exchange of business proposals in the areas of waste management and circular economy concepts.

“We have signed this MoU with a vision to conduct trade events and education programs on emerging business opportunities for MSMEs, start-ups and women entrepreneurs in waste management and circular economy. India has an immense opportunity to be a leading player in production and export of eco-friendly goods made from recycled or reused materials,” said Rupa Naik, Executive Director, MVIRDC WTC Mumbai.

Stating that sustainability and waste management are no longer local, but global in nature, P Bineesha, Executive Director, International Institute of Waste Management, said, “We have realised that sustainability and waste management are no longer local, but global in nature. In this era of climate change and global alliances such as the Conference of Parties (COP), our battle to protect the environment cannot be complete without involving trade and industry across borders.”

There is a compelling need to promote transfer of technologies that are environment-friendly among different nations, Bineesha said.
According to a report by NITI Aayog in 2021, India generated 55 million tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) annually, and this is expected to grow to 165 million tonnes by 2030.

The report points out that 50 per cent of the MSW is biodegradable wet waste, 35 per cent of it is non-biodegradable dry waste, while the remaining waste falls under other categories, which calls for promoting business opportunities in this segment.