



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND RESEARCH



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From

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To

- 1- Secretary Industries & Production, MOIP, Islamabad
- 2- Secretary, MOC, Islamabad
- 3- Joint Secretary PSD, MOIP, Islamabad
- 4- Deputy Secretary (PSD), MOIP, Islamabad
- 5- Cost Accounts Officer, MOIP, Islamabad
- 6- DD-II (Agro-Products), MOC, Islamabad

SUBJECT: MEETING MINUTES-RECOMMENDATIONS OF 22ND MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NFSR

The meeting was convened in pursuance of the Standing Committee's recommendation, which required the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Industries to jointly develop a comprehensive strategy for enhancing rice exports and to brief the Committee accordingly. The meeting was chaired by the Additional Secretary, National Food Security and Research. The list of participants is annexed.

The meeting began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by a brief introduction and outline of the agenda.

Mr. Moazzam Ali Haider, Deputy Director (Agro), Ministry of Commerce, apprised the participants of the current rice export situation. He reported that rice exports had declined from **US\$ 3.93 billion in FY 2023-24** to **US\$ 3.35 billion in FY 2024-25**, with a further decline of **US\$ 854 million** during **July to December FY 2025-26**. The decline was attributed to rising production, energy and logistics costs, reduced price tolerance in international markets, and liquidity challenges for exporters.

Despite these constraints, he noted that Pakistan currently has an exportable surplus of about 0.6 million metric tons of Basmati and 3.5 million metric tons of non-Basmati rice, representing an export potential of around US\$ 2 billion at prevailing international prices. He added that, in view of this potential, the Prime Minister had directed the Ministry of Commerce to submit a firm and actionable proposal to the ECC aimed at addressing the competitiveness gap in rice exports.

The Ministry of Commerce on the direction of the prime Minister is working on various proposals for enhancing export of rice, including DLTL. The Secretaries of these three ministries have visited different chambers and business associations over the last three weeks and discussed the dip in exports including the measures to enhance rice exports. Different options to enhance rice exports have also been discussed with Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) and the association has also proposed few measures in this regard. However, association has not supported the proposal of subsidy as first preference.

MoC on directions of ECC had submitted proposal to Exports Development Board. Following this approval, the Ministry of Commerce issued the DLT for Rice Order 2026 on 23 January 2026. The Order made DLT admissible on rice consignments shipped from 23 January to 30 June 2026. It provided nine percent DLT on Basmati and Brown rice with FOB value of 750 dollars per metric ton or above, and three percent on specified rice categories with FOB values below that level. The Order also included eligibility conditions, automated claim processing through Pakistan Single Window, the State Bank of Pakistan and Pakistan Customs, along with audit and penalty provisions.

Mr. Moazzam further stated that the Ministry is pursuing promotional efforts. The Minister and Secretary Commerce, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held engagements with ambassadors of Bangladesh, the Philippines, China, Gambia and Indonesia to explore government-to-government export opportunities. TDAP was instructed to prepare a marketing and trade promotion plan for priority markets including the United States, the European Union, ASEAN, Central Asian Republics and Africa.

On issues raised by the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan relating to under-invoicing and mis-declaration of Basmati exports to Afghanistan and Iran, the Ministry requested FBR to establish a foolproof mechanism. On concerns regarding stockists, hoarding and the use of head rice by the feed industry, it was clarified that these matters fall under provincial jurisdiction and do not come within the federal mandate. REAP has therefore approached the Government of Punjab for the matter.

The Additional Secretary NFS&R thanked the participants for detailed discussion and informed the participants that, in the upcoming meeting of the Standing Committee, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Industries would again be invited to jointly formulate a comprehensive strategy for improving rice exports.

Annexure

S#	Name & Designation	Ministry
1	Mr. Nadeem Ur Rahman, Joint Secretary	M/o Industries and Production
2	Syed Zaki Hassan Naqvi, Deputy Secretary	M/o Industries and Production
3	M. Yasir Iqbal, CAO	M/o Industries and Production
4	Mr. Moazzam Ali Haider, Deputy Director Agro	Ministry of Commerce

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