



AIREA News – 18th September 2026

1. More crops, but less gains for farmers

India's foodgrain production has risen nearly seven-fold since Independence, but this has not translated proportionately into higher farm incomes. The article highlights the need for agricultural research, policies and innovation to focus more on profitability, climate resilience and farmer adoption.

2. GI-tagged Mushkbudji rice gains ground in Kashmir

Mushkbudji, a traditional aromatic rice variety of Kashmir, is witnessing a revival, with cultivation expanding to over 400 hectares in Anantnag. Prices have reached around ₹20,000–25,000 per quintal, while farmers are seeking better processing facilities and protection of its GI identity.

3. Basmati rice acreage declines, production poised to fall

Basmati acreage is estimated to have declined nearly 4%, mainly in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, which could reduce production and support prices. India exported 6.52 MT of basmati worth \$5.67 billion in FY 2025–26, while April–June exports this year reached 1.54 MT worth \$1.44 billion.

4. Prices of premium rice varieties surge by 50% on fears of lower kharif output

Prices of premium varieties such as Ponni and Sona Masuri have risen sharply amid lower acreage and deficient rainfall, particularly in southern states. Grade 1 BPT rice in Andhra Pradesh has increased to about ₹6,200/quintal from ₹4,000 last year, with further price increases possible.

5. Haryana orders field verification of 23L acres of non-basmati paddy area

Haryana has ordered field verification of 23.98 lakh acres registered as non-basmati paddy on the MFMB portal amid concerns that some basmati acreage may have been incorrectly registered as parmal to qualify for MSP procurement. Around 19.35 lakh acres have been verified, with 4.64 lakh acres still pending.

6. Upfront release of food subsidy keeps FCI's expenses in check

Timely release of food subsidy funds has helped FCI manage its working-capital requirements and reduce dependence on short-term borrowing. FCI currently holds 87.38 MT of foodgrain, including 39.6 MT rice and 47.7 MT wheat, substantially above the October 1 buffer requirement.

7. India welcomes New Zealand Parliament's FTA approval

India welcomed New Zealand Parliament's approval of legislation to implement the India–New Zealand FTA. The agreement is expected to provide duty-free access for Indian exports, including agriculture and processed food products, once it enters into force.

8. Sudden showers, strong winds flatten paddy

Heavy rain and strong winds damaged standing paddy and basmati crops at isolated locations in Amritsar, particularly early-maturing varieties. Waterlogging and inadequate drainage at the Bhagtanwala grain market also drenched paddy bags, raising concerns over grain quality, yield and farmer realisations.

Market Trade Insight – 18th Sept.

USDINR: Mild bullish bias, supported by a firm USD and high crude, while RBI intervention may cap the upside.

EURINR: Mildly positive bias, with elevated Eurozone inflation and high crude supporting the pair, though a stronger USD may limit gains.