AIREA News – 24th September 2026

1. India, Egypt discuss boosting cooperation in agriculture

India and Egypt discussed strengthening cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors during a meeting between India's Ambassador and Egypt's Agriculture Minister at Sahara Expo 2026. The discussions reflect expanding bilateral commercial and sectoral ties.

2. Exporters seek reciprocal measures for agri imports

Indian rice exporters are seeking reciprocal, transparent and risk-based approval rules for foreign agricultural exporters, following tighter rice-import approvals and rejections by countries such as China. The industry wants India to adopt similar measures when imported products fail regulatory checks.

3. Farm growth post-2015 more broad-based, tech-driven: Paper

India's agricultural growth has averaged about **4.5% since 2015**, compared with around 3% in earlier periods, driven by technology, diversification and sustainability. The paper recommends aligning traditional subsidies and price-support policies with resource conservation, climate resilience and productivity.

4. Weak rains leave trail of wilted crop, dry plots

A **15% national rainfall deficit** has affected rain-dependent farming regions, with particularly severe shortages in parts of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Paddy acreage is down **3.7%**, while the major risk is shifting from acreage to lower yields; better-irrigated northern regions are expected to be less affected.

5. Premium non-basmati rice turns dearer by up to 25%

Premium non-basmati varieties such as **Sona Masoori, Ponni and Swarna** have become 10–25% costlier year-on-year due to lower paddy acreage and rainfall shortages, particularly in southern India. Paddy acreage has fallen **3.79%**, while Basmati mandi prices have also started higher than last year.

6. Kharif crop gone, rabi in doubt:

Severe rainfall shortages in parts of Maharashtra have destroyed Kharif crops, depleted water sources and left farmers struggling to finance the Rabi season. Early migration for farm labour, distress sale of livestock, tanker-dependent villages and demands for immediate government relief are increasing.

9. Market Trade Insight – 24th Sep

USD/INR: Mildly bullish bias; USD strength and importer demand may keep INR under pressure, while softer crude and RBI-linked intervention could limit downside.

EUR/INR: Mildly positive bias; stronger USD and Fed expectations weigh on the euro, while softer oil and RBI intervention provide support to INR.