



AIREA News— 30th September 2026

1. 'Won't be significant drop in Kharif output despite El Nino'

The government expects no significant decline in Kharif foodgrain production despite a 12% rainfall deficit and regional drought/flood concerns. Paddy acreage has fallen by about **16.32 lakh hectares**, while pulses and coarse cereals have gained area.

2. Govt sets foodgrain target at 374 mt amid El Nino

The Centre has set the **2026–27 foodgrain production target at 373.93 million tonnes**, below the 376.56 MT achieved in 2025–26, factoring in El Niño and uneven rainfall. The Rabi target is 177.72 MT, with greater focus on water availability and soil moisture.

3. India foodgrain target set below last year's output

India's 2026–27 foodgrain target is lower than last year's record output, mainly reflecting concerns over rice and maize. Rice acreage has declined **3.7% to 42.9 million hectares**, while pulses acreage has increased.

4. Foodgrain output estimate for 2026-27 reduced marginally

The government has marginally lowered its foodgrain target because of monsoon deficiencies and El Niño risks. Around **0.61 million hectares** have reportedly been affected by excessive rain, floods or drought in several states.

5. Digital agriculture and the problem of exclusion

The article highlights concerns that India's Digital Agriculture Mission may exclude **women cultivators, tenant farmers and landless agricultural workers** because of its land-ownership-based definition of farmers. Limited rural digital access and literacy could also restrict the benefits of agricultural digitalisation.

6. Move beyond awareness-building, turn FTAs, schemes into actual exports: DGFT to industry

DGFT has urged industry bodies to convert FTAs and export schemes into actual export opportunities rather than limiting efforts to awareness-building. Industry associations were also encouraged to mentor exporters at district and cluster levels and integrate businesses into global value chains.

7. India-New Zealand trade set to surge as FTA kicks in on Oct 20

The India–New Zealand FTA is scheduled to take effect on **October 20**, with India receiving duty-free access across New Zealand's tariff lines. The agreement aims to double bilateral trade by 2030, while sensitive Indian sectors such as dairy and certain agricultural products remain protected.



8. Paddy procurement to begin from Oct 1 in Punjab amid storage crunch

Punjab is preparing to begin paddy procurement from October 1 amid a **massive storage shortage**, with around 280 lakh tonnes of foodgrains already occupying storage facilities. Officials expect the state's paddy yield to exceed 210 lakh tonnes and are relying on rice mills and other infrastructure for storage and lifting.

9. Rice millers flag broken rice lifting, space crunch with FCI

Haryana rice millers have sought a **seven-day window for lifting broken rice** and raised concerns over inadequate FCI storage space. They also discussed milling charges, the proposed 48-hour stack waiting period and timely lifting of custom-milled rice.

10. Paddy procurement begins, high moisture content slows purchases

Paddy procurement has started in several Haryana markets, but **high moisture content following recent rainfall** is delaying purchases. Farmers have requested relaxation in moisture norms and timely lifting, while officials are monitoring procurement arrangements.

11. Centre to launch campaign on FTA benefits for farmers

The government plans to launch a nationwide campaign to make farmers aware of the benefits available under India's FTAs and help them use these agreements to access international markets.

Market Trade Insight – 30 Sep

USD/INR: Mildly bullish bias; strong dollar and US yields may keep the rupee under pressure. RBI intervention and softer crude can limit sharp depreciation.

EUR/INR: Mildly soft bias; stronger USD is weighing on the euro, while lower crude prices provide some support to INR. Eurozone inflation data remains the key near-term trigger.