AIREA News – 5th November 2026

1. Strengthening food safety

India's pesticide regulations need a more scientific and practical approach, as FSSAI lacks direct access to farm-level pesticide usage data. Better coordination among regulatory bodies and realistic residue limits are essential to improve food safety and support agricultural exports.

2. Rice prices to remain firm into Q1 2027

Global rice prices are expected to remain elevated through the first quarter of 2027 due to El Niño-related production risks, particularly in South and Southeast Asia. Lower production forecasts in India and other Asian countries, along with strong demand and rising shipping costs, are supporting prices.

3. After curbs on sugarcane, govt restricts use of rice for ethanol

The government has capped ethanol production from surplus FCI rice at 3.24 billion litres over the first three quarters of the supply year and imposed a separate annual ceiling on ethanol from damaged grains. The move is expected to increase dependence on maize, intensifying competition among ethanol, feed and starch industries.

4. India-SACU pact may lead to a trade deal: Africa's India envoy

India's proposed preferential trade agreement with the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) could serve as a foundation for a broader India-Africa trade agreement. The proposed pact aims to improve market access, simplify customs procedures and strengthen bilateral trade relations.

5. INDIA'S GI TAG SURGE: WILL SALES FOLLOW?

India has witnessed a significant increase in Geographical Indication (GI) registrations, particularly in agriculture, food products and handicrafts. The growing recognition offers opportunities for regional products such as Kalanamak rice, although better market access, branding and commercialisation are needed to translate GI recognition into higher sales.

6. Heat reshaping India's food economy as El Niño strengthens; drought in six states stresses farm outlook

Strengthening El Niño conditions and extreme weather are affecting agricultural production, food supply and farmers' incomes, with drought declared in six states. The report highlights the need for climate-resilient agriculture, improved water management and stronger support systems to minimise crop losses.

7. Punjab govt shuts nearly 400 mandis to adhere to Centre's paddy arrivals limit

Punjab has shut nearly 400 paddy procurement mandis across six districts and partially in another district to restrict total arrivals to the Centre-mandated limit of 180 lakh tonnes. The move comes amid concerns over higher crop yields and the possibility of procurement exceeding the approved quota.

8. Market Trade Insight – 5th November 2026

USD/INR: Softer dollar, declining crude prices and lower US yields may support the rupee, while FPI flows and RBI intervention remain key drivers.

EUR/INR: Euro may remain supported by ECB tightening expectations and dollar weakness, amid global political and economic uncertainty.