AIREA News : 17th November 2026

1. **India & Egypt discuss steps to boost trade, address non-tariff barriers**

   India and Egypt discussed measures to increase bilateral trade to USD 12 billion by reducing non-tariff barriers, simplifying customs procedures and improving market access. Both countries agreed to establish a Joint Working Group to explore a Preferential Trade Agreement or Free Trade Agreement, with priority sectors including agriculture, pharmaceuticals, fertilisers and engineering.

2. **EU finds GMO in Chinese rice again; rejects 3 consignments**

   The European Union has rejected three rice-based consignments from China since September due to the presence of unauthorised genetically modified organisms (GMOs), taking the total number of such rejected consignments to eight this year. The affected products include rice crackers, rice and rice cakes, raising concerns over food safety and regulatory compliance.

3. **Farmers grow paddy amid El Nino**

   Despite warnings of water shortages due to El Nino, farmers in parts of the erstwhile Karimnagar district are preparing to cultivate paddy during the Rabi season. Farmers are relying on available groundwater and are also concerned about monkey attacks on alternative crops.

4. **Adilabad farmers turn to chana as 2nd crop**

   Farmers in Adilabad are increasingly opting for Bengal gram (chana) as a second crop due to its lower water requirements and favourable weather conditions. The state government is encouraging crop diversification by providing subsidised chana seeds to reduce the impact of El Nino.

5. **Paddy prices crash, fertiliser costs soar: Farmers caught in double trouble**

   Farmers in South Dinajpur are facing financial difficulties due to falling paddy prices and a sharp increase of around ₹500 per 50-kg bag of NPK fertiliser. Paddy is currently selling at ₹1,700–1,800 per quintal, leaving farmers struggling to finance their upcoming Rabi cultivation.

6. **Processed foods find new mkts as staples' exports consolidate**

   India's agricultural export basket is expanding, with processed food products gaining demand in new international markets while traditional exports continue to grow. Basmati rice exports increased by 25.4% to USD 1.6 billion during April–September FY 2026-27, while frozen potato exports also recorded strong growth.

7. **Rice exports up 4.6%, sea foods 13% in FY27 so far**

   India's rice exports increased by 4.6% to USD 6.81 billion during April–October FY 2026-27, despite supply disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict and concerns over El Nino. October rice exports reached USD 1.02 billion, registering an increase of over 18% compared with the same month last year.

8. **Govt cracks down on 'bogus' paddy purchase, suspends two**

   Punjab has procured 183 lakh metric tonnes of paddy against arrivals of 188 lakh metric tonnes, exceeding its original procurement target of 180 lakh tonnes. Two officials have been suspended following suspected bogus procurement of around 11,000 quintals in Abohar, while alleged irregularities involving 22,000 paddy bags in Bholath are also under investigation.

9. **Market Trade Insight – 17th November**

   USD/INR: Strong FPI inflows and easing crude prices are supporting the rupee, while a firm dollar and domestic inflation concerns may limit further appreciation.

   EUR/INR: The euro remains under pressure due to dollar strength and monetary policy divergence between the ECB and Fed. Strong foreign inflows and softer crude are supporting the rupee.