



Export of Organic Millets

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Why in News

In a major boost to exports of organic products from the country, the first consignment of millets grown in the Himalayas would be exported to Denmark.

- **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) has sourced ragi (finger millet), and jhingora (barnyard millet) from farmers in Uttarakhand for exports.**
- At present, organic products are exported provided they are produced, processed, packed and labelled as per the requirements of the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**.

Key Points

- **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP):**
 - The **NPOP** has been implemented by **APEDA** since its **inception in 2001** as notified under the **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992**.
 - NPOP **covers** standards for crops and their products, live stocks and poultry products, aquaculture, apiculture etc. The exports from the country are as per the provisions in NPOP.
 - The NPOP certification **has been recognized by the European Union and Switzerland** which enables India to export unprocessed plant products to these countries without the requirement of additional certification.

It also facilitates export of Indian organic products to the **United Kingdom** even in the **post Brexit phase**.
 - NPOP has also been **recognized by the Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSSAI)** for trade of organic products in the domestic market.
 - Organic products covered under the bilateral agreement with NPOP need not to be recertified for import in India.

- **Organic Farming:**
 - According to FSSAI, '**organic farming**' is a **system of farm design and management to create an ecosystem of agriculture production without the use of synthetic external inputs** such as chemical fertilisers, pesticides and synthetic hormones or genetically modified organisms.
 - **Related Initiatives:**
 - Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCDNER).
 - Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), etc.
 - The Indian state of **Sikkim** achieved the feat of being the **world's first organic state** and was awarded the UN Future Policy Gold Award 2018, also known as the Oscar for best policies.
- **Status of India's Export of Organic Food:**
 - India's export of organic food products rose by **more than 51% to Rs. 7078 crore** during April-February (2020-21) compared to the same period in the previous fiscal (2019-20). In terms of **quantity**, the exports of organic food products **grew by 39%**.
 - **Oil cake meal is a major commodity** of the organic product exports from the country followed by oil seeds, fruit pulps and purees, cereals & millets, spices, tea, medicinal plant products, dry fruits, sugar, pulses, coffee, essential oil etc.
 - India's organic products have been **exported to 58 countries** including USA, European Union, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Switzerland, Israel and South Korea.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority

- APEDA was established by the Government of India under the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Authority has its headquarters in New Delhi.**
- It has been **mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of the scheduled products** viz. fruits, vegetables, meat products, dairy products, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages etc.
- It has also been entrusted with the **responsibility to monitor import of sugar.**

Source: PIB