

## Indian Agricultural Exports Poised for UK Market Surge Following New Trade Deal



India's agricultural and marine product exports, particularly grapes, shrimp, semi-milled rice, honey, and onions, are set for a significant boost into the United Kingdom market. This comes on the heels of the recently concluded Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the UK, which is expected to eliminate or substantially reduce tariffs on a wide range of goods. The agreement, deemed a "game changer" by Indian government officials, aims to deepen economic ties and provide Indian producers with enhanced access to premium UK markets.

Under the new trade framework, over 95% of India's agricultural and processed food items will gain duty-free access to the UK. This elimination of import duties is projected to lower costs for Indian exporters and strengthen their competitive position within the UK's mainstream and ethnic retail sectors. For agricultural products like grapes and onions, this means a more favorable playing field compared to competitors from some European countries. Exporters of these fresh produce items will still need to adhere to the UK's stringent phytosanitary (plant health) and food safety standards, which typically require phytosanitary certificates and inspections upon arrival.

The fisheries sector, especially in states like Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, stands to benefit immensely. Current UK tariffs on Indian shrimp, which range from 4.2% to 8.5%, will be entirely removed. This tariff elimination is anticipated to accelerate India's seafood export growth, particularly for shrimp, tuna, fishmeal, and feed. The agreement also establishes a framework for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, aiming to ease compliance for Indian exporters and reduce rejections, thereby building greater trust in Indian seafood products.

Honey, too, is expected to see increased demand in the UK. While specific tariff reductions for honey were not detailed, the broader duty elimination on processed foods, some of which previously faced tariffs as high as 70%, indicates a significant advantage. Exporters of honey must continue to meet the UK's strict animal product import regulations, which include health certificates for higher-risk categories.

For semi-milled rice, while basmati rice already has specific quota arrangements, the broader reduction in duties on various agricultural products could streamline and enhance trade flows. Exporters will need to ensure compliance with origin certificates and any relevant quota requirements.

Overall, the India-UK FTA is not merely about tariff cuts; it aims to foster a more robust trading environment. Government projections suggest that India's agricultural exports to the UK could increase by more than 20% within the next three years. This renewed focus on facilitating trade for key agricultural commodities and processed foods underscores a strategic move to diversify export markets and empower India's agricultural and marine industries on the global stage.