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## Pakistan's State Buyer Opens New Tender for Sugar Imports Amid Ongoing Economic Strain

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The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has issued a new international tender for the import of 100,000 metric tons of white sugar. This marks the second tender for sugar imports in recent months, highlighting continued efforts to stabilize the domestic market amid fluctuating supply conditions.

According to the official announcement, the tender permits a minimum bid of 25,000 metric tons, with the sugar to be delivered in standard 50-kilogram bags. Shipments are scheduled to arrive between August 21 and September 5, with all deliveries required to be completed

by September 30. Bidders can offer either a single consignment of 50,000 tons or two separate shipments of 25,000 tons.

This latest move underscores Pakistan's ongoing reliance on international markets to meet its food and commodity requirements. The decision to initiate another tender reflects current challenges in domestic sugar production, which industry observers attribute to weather variability, limited government support, and outdated farming infrastructure.

Experts point out that the sugar sector, like other segments of Pakistan's agriculture industry, continues to face hurdles such as rising input costs, inconsistent access to irrigation, and the lack of modernized harvesting equipment. These factors have contributed to supply shortfalls and price volatility in local markets.

Government officials have stated that imported sugar is intended to ensure sufficient availability ahead of the peak demand period. However, the need for large-scale imports places additional pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves, which remain under stress due to broader economic conditions, including high inflation and a depreciating rupee.

The TCP has been tasked with managing essential commodity imports and has recently played a key role in sourcing wheat, sugar, and fertilizer from global suppliers. Its actions are part of broader policy measures aimed at maintaining price stability and supporting consumer access to basic goods.

While the new sugar tender offers a short-term solution, experts continue to stress the importance of strengthening domestic agriculture to improve food security and reduce dependency on international suppliers in the long term.