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Agricultural Situation

Weekly Highlights & Hot Bites, # 29

2005

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Report Highlights:

ICAR reorganization recommended *Mid-term appraisal of tenth five year plan - agriculture sector* *China permits Indian mangoes*.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
New Delhi [IN1]
[IN]

Welcome to Hot Bites from India, a weekly summary of issues of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The report includes information that has been garnered during travel within India, reported in the local media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Press articles are included in this report. Significant issues will be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office.

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ICAR REORGANIZATION RECOMMENDED

The R.A. Mashelkar Committee, set up by the government to suggest organizational and procedural changes to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has criticized the same for inefficiency. It has suggested a number of measures to revamp ICAR to make it financially viable and competitive. The Committee suggested that the Prime Minister be made President of the ICAR Society and the Agriculture Minister the Vice President. The M.S. Swaminathan panel had earlier recommended the curtailment of the Council's powers through formation of two high-powered supervisory bodies. (Financial Express, 07/27/05)

The full report is available at: www.icar.org.in/reports/report-mashelkar.pdf

MID-TERM APPRAISAL OF TENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN – AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The Indian Government's Planning Commission recently placed on its web site the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). The section on Agriculture and Food Security provides a detailed assessment of the past performance of this sector and priority areas of action. According to this report, GDP growth in agriculture and allied sectors during the first three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan averaged only one percent per year against the Plan target of 4 percent. It also points out that progress in implementing Plan Programs in the first two years of the Plan was slow. Growth rates of crops and livestock output averaged 1.1 percent and 3.6 percent per year, respectively, after 1996/97, down from 3.1 and 4.5 percent during 1989 and 1997.

The full text of the report can be accessed from:
http://planningcommission.nic.in/midterm/cont_eng1.htm

CHINA PERMITS INDIAN MANGOES

China has opened its market to imports of Indian mangoes, including the Alphonso variety, according to the Indian Minister of State for Commerce. "Following a pest risk analysis, China has agreed to open its market for Indian grapes and bitter gourds. As part of this process, the Chinese concerns relating to other fruits and vegetables are also being addressed to enable their exports," the Minister said. However, imports of Indian mangoes in Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States is not permitted. (Financial Express, 07/28/05)

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REPORT #	SUBJECT	DATE SUBMITTED
IN5082	India : Oilseeds Monthly Update, August	07/26/05

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