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DA: Cold storage facilities solve overproduction, postharvest losses

By GABRIELL CHRISTEL GALANG

To resolve overproduction and postharvest losses, the Department of Agriculture (DA) looked into possible cold storage facilities to preserve

crops and other perishable goods.

On Monday, Jan. 15, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. visited the Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) in Taguig to store high-value produce like cabbages and

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other fruits and vegetables as well as other crops to increase their shelf life.

In the Cordillera, the DA in the Cordillera Administrative Region (DA-CAR) assured that farmers will receive aid to overcome challenges facing prices of vegetables.

Danilo Daguo, the regional technical director (RTD) for operations, said the agency will continue to help them reach potential markets through the Kadiwa on Wheels program.

"If farmers need help selling their produce, we have the 'Kadiwa on Wheels' program, which is an ongoing initiative," he said.

The Kadiwa program helps avoid intermediaries and allows local producers to sell their produce directly to consumers.

"The best thing farmers could do is approach the respective office of the municipal and provincial agriculturist, and they shall provide the necessary assistance," Daguo added.

According to the DA-CAR, they sold 40,000 kilograms (kg) of cabbage, and Chinese cabbages (wombok) after linking Cordillera vegetable farmers to different market groups within and outside of the region in early January.

Jennilyn Dawayan, officer-in-chief at the Office of the Regional Executive Director (RED), said Kadiwa and other partnership initiatives help address the issues within the agriculture sector and provide support to local farmers.

"Here in the Department of Agriculture, we are continuously locating farmers and reaching out to them. We also collaborate with local governments to check for areas of concern," Dawayan expressed.

Last week, the DA-CAR reported that lack of buyers in late December to Jan. 3 caused the decrease in prices due to abnormal trading activities.

Currently, the agency announced that vegetables in CAR are sold at ₱10 to ₱15 per kilo.



P500M cold storage to curb farm losses

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) is planning to build more cold storage facilities at the Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) in Taguig City to address overproduction and minimize post-harvest losses of agricultural products, particularly vegetables and other high-value crops.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in a statement yesterday the agency eyes the construction of a chiller warehouse

dedicated to vegetables and other high-value crops at a 1.3-hectare section of the property.

Laurel said the project will cost P500 million and would require 12 months to complete.

The facility will be equipped with a processing plant and trading area which will prioritize farmers' produce for buffer stocking.

"Half of the warehouse should be allocated to the coil system and the other half for evaporator type.

The evaporator type is for short-term storage of high-value crops. Meanwhile, the coil technology, because there is no circulating fan, moisture is kept within the storage, it will keep things fresh for a longer period," Laurel said.

DA said the plan will result in two types of cold storage facilities, frozen and chilled but did not provide other specifications of the project.

"The immediate problem I see

is the oversupply from time to time of tomatoes and cabbage. That's why we should immediately build storage at FTI. My direction is to build a network for chilled cold storage systems," Laurel added.

Laurel said he had a briefing with officials of FTI as they were also instructed to purchase excess produce of farmers and supply them to Kadiwa rolling stores.

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P500M

FTI is a state-owned firm under the DA.

"If there is overproduction, instead of throwing it away, let FTI buy it, we can even put it in the Kadiwa program. The plan is also to strengthen the DA's Kadiwa pro-

gram. I plan to return Kadiwa to FTI after two years," Laurel added.

Laurel said the DA is also in the process of centralizing all agriculture logistics management matters, including FTI to the soon-to-be-formed logistics office of the agency.

DA said the Logistics Office is set to handle all the agency's existing cold storage apart from being in charge of research and inventory of all cold storage facilities within the Philippines to ensure synchronization. -Jed Macapagal



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Vegetable cold storage facility planned for FTI site in Taguig City

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said it will build a P500-million cold storage facility for stockpiling vegetables and other high-value crops in Taguig City.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. said the facility will rise on a 1.3-hectare site at the Food Terminal, Inc. (FTI) complex.

"The facility will also be equipped with a processing plant and trading area, and will prioritize farmers' produce for buffer stocking," Mr. Laurel said in a statement on Monday.

He said the availability of cold storage will minimize post-harvest losses and allow commodities to be stored during periods of oversupply.

He added that half of the facility

will employ evaporator-type storage for short-term storage of high-value crops, while the rest will use coil-type equipment for longer-term storage.

"The immediate problem I see is the oversupply, from time to time, of tomatoes and cabbage. So, we should build storage at FTI immediately," Mr. Laurel said. "My direction is to build a network of cold storage (facilities)."

Separately, DA Assistant Secretary and spokesperson Arnel V. de Mesa said: "The Secretary's plan is to put up a network of cold storage facilities in La Union or Baguio, Taguig, Quezon, and Mindoro. The primary focus would be mainly on vegetables and then other commodities," Mr. De Mesa told reporters on Monday.

— **Adrian H. Halili**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link
<tinyurl.com/ypkj5yay>

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DA aims to build 'network' of cold storage facilities across Philippines

By JASPER EMMANUEL Y. ARCALAS

@jearcalas

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) bared plans to build a P500-million cold storage facility at the Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) as part of its goal of buffer-stocking key commodities through improved food logistics in the country.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. said the DA's current thrust is to create a "network" of cold storage systems nationwide to prevent food wastages and losses.

"Ang immediate problem na nakikita ko ay iyong oversupply from time to time ng tomatoes and cabbage. Kaya dapat magtayo

tayo agad ng storage sa FTI. Ang direction ko is to build a network for chilled cold storage systems," Tiu Laurel said during a briefing with FTI officials in Taguig City on Monday.

Laurel said the DA is keen on constructing a chiller warehouse dedicated to vegetables and other high-value crops at the 1.3-hectare section of the FTI in Taguig City.

The envisioned facility would be equipped with a processing plant, trading area, and will be utilized to prioritize farmers' produce for buffer stocking, Laurel added.

The project will cost P500 million and would require about 12 months to be completed, the

Agriculture chief said.

"Half of the warehouse should be allocated to the coil system, kalahati evaporator type. The evaporator type is for short-term storage of high-value crops," he said.

"Iyong coil, because there is no circulating fan, moisture is kept within the storage, it will keep things fresh for a longer period," he added.

Laurel reiterated the DA's plan to consolidate the department's logistics management matters and issues to the "soon-to-be-formed" logistics office.

"Lahat ng cold storage ng DA, ililipat ko lahat sa logistics office, which will conduct research and inventory of all facilities within

the Philippines to ensure synchronization," he said.

Furthermore, Laurel disclosed that he plans to revert the oversight on the DA's Kadiwa Program to the FTI in two years time.

Laurel has instructed FTI officials to "purchase excess produce from farmers and supply them to Kadiwa centers."

"Kung may overproduction, kaysa itapon, bilhin na lang ng FTI, mailalagay pa natin iyan sa Kadiwa program. The plan is also to strengthen iyong Kadiwa program ng DA. Plano kong ibalik sa FTI ang Kadiwa after two years," Laurel said.

The FTI is a government-owned and controlled corporation under the DA.



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Sobrang ani ng mga magsasaka 'itatambak' sa FTI

Magpapasagawa ang Department of Agriculture (DA) ng P500 milyong chiller warehouse sa Food Terminal Inc. sa Taguig City para mag-silbing cold storage na magagamit bilang imbak ng ani ng mga magsasaka.

Tugon ito ng DA sa problema ng mga magsasaka kapag nagkakaroon ng sobra-sobrang ani ng kanilang mga produktong agrikultural.

"Ang immediate problem na nakikita ko ay iyong oversupply from time to time ng tomatoes and cabbage. Kaya dapat magtayo agad ng storage sa FTI. Ang direction ko is to build a network for chilled cold storage systems," sabi ni Laurel sa briefing kasama ang mga opisyal ng FTI.

Plano ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na magtayo ng

maraming cold storage facility para maimbak ang mga ani sa panahong may oversupply upang hindi malugi ang mga magsasaka.

Inaasahan ng DA na matapos ang chiller warehouse sa loob ng 12 buwan.

Inutusan din ni Laurel ang FTI na bilhin ang mga sobrang ani ng mga magsasaka para sa mga Kadiwa center.

"Kung may overproduction, kaysa itapon, bilhin na lang ng FTI, mailalagay pa natin iyan sa Kadiwa program. The plan is also to strengthen yung Kadiwa program ng DA. Plano kong ibalik sa FTI ang Kadiwa after two years," dagdag niya.

Ilalagay ang chiller warehouse sa 1.3 ektaryang bahagi ng FTI. Magkakaroon din ito ng processing plant at trading area. (Eileen Mencias)



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**El Niño higit na titindi sa darating
na mga buwan – PAGASA**

Titindi pa ang kasalukuyang nararanasang panahon ng El Niño sa bansa ngayong buwan hanggang sa susunod na mga buwan ngayong taon.

Ayon kay DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. base sa kasalukuyang kundisyon, may katamtaman hanggang sa matinding tagtuyot ang mararanasan mula sa Pebrero hanggang Mayo ngayong taon.

Una nang sinabi ni Solidum na may 65 lalawigan ang tatamaan ng matinding tagtuyot dahil sa dry spell sa unang quarter ng 2024.

Tinaya ni Solidum na ang naganap na El Niño noong taong 1997 hanggang 1998 ay katulad ngayong taon na marami ang makakaranas ng epekto ng matinding tagtuyot at bilyong piso ang inaasahang lugi sa sektor ng agrikultura.

Gumagawa na ng mga paraan ang Department of Agriculture (DA) para makaiwas sa matinding epekto ng El Niño ang sektor ng agrikultura sa bansa. (Angie dela Cruz)



Ngayong araw na ito ay ibabahagi ko sa inyo ang isang Hydroponic Farm na Plant Habitat at makikita sa Sitio Pirsá, Brgy. Pandaras, San Fernando, Pampanga

Ito ay ang J.H.B Zapata Integrated Farm na pag-aari ng 23-taong gulang na si John Harold Zapata, nagtapos ng kursong BSBA Marketing Management sa University of the Assumption.

"Full of inspiration" ang buhay ni Harold, lalo na sa pagpasok niya sa larangan ng agrikultura sa pamamagitan ng hydroponics method of farming.

method na pagtatanim ng mga halaman.

Hindi naman nag-aksaya ng panahon si Harold at sinaliksik nito ang pagtatanim ng halaman sa tubig.

Nagsimula si Harold sa halagang 1,000 puhunan dahil ang mga ginamit nito sa pag-tatanim ay mula sa mga scrap material o patapon na bagay na maaaring magamit sa farming, tulad ng styropor, bote ng mineral water at iba.

Dahil sa kanyang si-pag, tiyaga, dedikasyon sa trabaho at debusyon sa Panginoon ang dating 1,000 puhunan ay



Ang Magsasakang REPORTER

ni MER LAYSON

Reporter ang unang nakapag-interview kay Harold by a zoom pa noon, sa programang Masaganang Buhay.

Matapos umere sa OnePh, Cignal TV, Channel 1 ng TV-5 at simulcast sa Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM ang interview ng Magsasakang Reporter kay Harold ay nagkasunod-sunod na ang gwesting nito sa iba't ibang TV network, Radio Stations at Newspaper.

097-22-96

Sabihin lang po ninyo na nabasa ninyo sa kolum ng Magsasakang Reporter ang tungkol sa kanyang adbokasiya.

Sa Linggo, Enero 21, 2024 ay mapapanood ninyo sa ikalawang pagkakataon sa programang Masaganang Buhay TV at Radio Show ng Magsasakang Reporter si John Harold Zapata.

Samantala, para sa iba pang tips at sikreto sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan

Plant Habitat...

J.H.B ZAPATA INTEGRATED FARM

Ang mga tanim na iba't ibang lettuce at melon sa tatlong greenhouse ng farm.



Dating sakitin si Harold noong bata pa siya at na-diagnose ng kaikaibang sakit na kung tawagin ay "Kawasaki," hirap sa paghinga, madaling mapagod at mahina ang katawan.

Pero ipinagkatiwala ni Harold ang kanyang sarili sa Panginoon hanggang magkaroon ng himala sa kanyang buhay at pinagaling siya ng Diyos sa kanyang karamdaman para maipagpatuloy ang kanyang misyon.

Paboritong bible verse ni Harold ay "Whatever you do, Do it all for the Glory of God," (Corinthians 10:31)

Pinasok ni Harold ang larangan ng agrikultura sa pamamagitan ng hydroponic method of farming noong 2021 na kasagsagan ng pandemya sa COVID-19.

Ayon kay Harold in-introduce sa kanya ng kanyang ama na pag-aralan ang hydroponic



kumikita na ng 40,000 to 50,000 kada buwan.

Malaking tulong kay Harold ang kanyang kinikita sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman para tustusan ang kanyang pag-aaral hanggang matapos nito ang kanyang kursong Marketing Management.

Hindi tumigil si Harold sa pagtatanim at siya mismo ang nagbebenta ng kanyang mga harvest.

Hanggang lumago at lumaki pa ang kanyang taniman at kinikita. Mula sa isang maliit na green house sa tapat ng kanilang tahanan ngayon ay tatlo na at may fishpond pang ginagawa.

Ang Magsasakang



Ang Magsasakang Reporter at si John Harold Zapata, owner ng J.H.B Zapata Integrated Farm.

Mabait at mapagbigay si Harold, ang pahiram na talento sa kanya ng Panginoon ay ibinabahagi niya sa iba sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng training at seminar.

Madalas ay sa tagiliran lamang ng kanilang bahay isinasagawa ni Harold ang kanyang seminar at training para matuto din ang iba na magtanim din ng sariling pagkain.

Maging ang iba't ibang ahensiya ng pamahalaan tulad ng Department of Agriculture (DA) Region 3, ATI, DOLE at iba pang NGO ay nakikipag-tie up na rin ngayon kay Harold para mapalaganap ang kahalagaan ng pagtatanim ng sariling pagkain upang magkaroon ng "food sufficiency" sa bansa.

Kamakailan lamang ay ginawaran si Harold bilang Young Entrepreneurs on Integrated Farm. Bukang bibig ni Harold ang mga katagang "Tiyaga pa, maluluto din ang nilaga"

Sa mga nais matuto ng hydroponic method of farming o bumili ng garden tools at materials, tawagan lamang ninyo si Harold sa 0955-

ay maaari po kayong manood at makinig ng aking TV at Radio program na Masaganang Buhay tuwing Linggo, alas-7:00 hanggang alas-8:00 umaga sa OnePH Cignal TV, Channel 1 ng TV-5. Mapa-pakig ng din po sa Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM.

Maaari rin kayong manood at mag-subscribe at mag-follow sa aking Youtube Channel na ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER at Facebook profile na Mer Layson at Face-book page na Ang Magsasakang Reporter, TV host Vlogger, Tiktok na Magsasakang Reporter para sa iba pang kaalaman at impormasyon sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan.

Tuwing araw ng Martes ay regular ninyong mababasa ang aking kolum dito sa **Pilipino Star Ngayon (PSN)** ng Star Group of Publications.

Sa mga tanong at komento ay maaari ninyo akong i-text, huwag po tawag, sa 09178675197. STAY SAFE, HAPPY FARMING, GOD BLESS US ALL.



VIRTUAL REALITY

TONY LOPEZ

Food shortages, joblessness and West Philippine Sea tension

Filipinos are in the grip of three major crises: a food shortage, joblessness and the West Philippine Sea tension.

To cope with the first two, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has deployed technocrats to handle the economy – Ralph Recto, 60, as Finance secretary and Frederick D. Go, 54, as secretary for Investment and Economic Affairs.



Ralph and Deck have spent 30 years each in their fields to reach the top and make an indelible mark.

Ralph was the youngest congressman when he joined the House of Representatives where he served for 11 years, rising to No. 2 as a deputy speaker. He was senator for 18 years (rising to No. 2 as Senate president pro tempore). Ralph was also president Gloria Arroyo's economic planning secretary for one year.

"No other legislator, past or present, has spent more years in Congress legislating tax laws than Secretary Recto. He knows what is proper in principle and pragmatic in practice," says Albay Rep. Joey Salceda.

Ralph knows the boldness of legislation in its fine print. He knows crisis when he sees one. When he entered Congress, he recalls, "in many places, when you opened the taps, there was no water. You tried to catch a plane, there was none. You lifted the phone, you got a busy signal. You switched on the lights, there was no power." He helped solve those problems.

In 31 years, Frederick built from scratch 54 shopping malls, 31 office buildings, 28 hotels and resorts, six industrial facilities and 19 mixed-use developments.

In response to the WPS issue, BBM has tapped 1989 Bar topnotcher and Harvard-educated (Master of Laws) lawyer Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr. as secretary of Defense. He is also a technocrat. Gibo's strategy so far is to be belligerent towards China, the intruder into the South China Sea territorial and sovereign rights claims of the Philippines, and to boost the country's naval weaponry.

The Manila Overseas Press Club hosts Secretary Gibo as speaker during the MOPC Defense Night on Jan. 23, 2024 at the Fairmont Hotel Ballroom. Those who want to hear him, please contact MOPC's Miss Dena, 0920-204-9229 or email this columnist.

The underlying problem with the food shortage, joblessness and the WPS tension is lack of investments – in adequate food production, in business infrastructure (roads and IT connectivity) and in our defense infrastructure (gunboats and tracking technology). That lack is exacerbated by another serious lack – lack of enough money.

When you are in government, the lack of money is called inadequate taxation. Or not enough tax collection. Recto's job No. 1 then is collect more taxes. In this country, tax avoidance (which is legal) and tax evasion (illegal) have become an art.

The Philippine tax effort as a percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 14.1 percent. The ideal should be 20 percent, the average tax-to-GDP ratio of our more prosperous neighbors. Our tax deficit is thus 6 percent of GDP. If GDP is P22 trillion, 6 percent is P1.32 trillion. That's big money – enough to meet our total rice shortage over the next ten years, or build twice the number of road kms we need to build in a year. Or buy 16 Robinsons Land companies. RLC has market cap of P79 billion.

For Frederick Go, lack of money is not enough investments, local and foreign (foreign direct investments or FDI). That lack is blamed on two things – a restrictive economy (hence, the need to open it up through Charter change) and red tape (hence, the need to simplify doing business rules).

In 2022 alone, among the major countries of ASEAN, the Philippines received the smallest FDI, \$9.36 billion. Singapore got the lion's share, \$141.18 billion; far behind, Indonesia \$22.22 billion; Vietnam \$17.89 billion; Malaysia \$17.06 billion and Thailand, \$11.2 billion.

A quarter of our food needs cannot be met by local production. The response has been massive food importation – through legal imports and through smuggling. In rice alone, the Philippines needs to import 3.5 million tons yearly. At \$600 per ton, 3.5 million tons is \$2.28 billion. That's conservative.

World rice supplies are tightening for two reasons – one, India, the world's biggest rice exporter, has restricted exports; and two, El Niño, which means drought. Philippine rice production is dependent on water – from irrigation and rainfall. Rainfall is equivalent to one harvest season, or up to a third of a farmer's palay output.

The government claims the lowest unemployment rate – 3.6 percent in November 2023, or an unbelievable only 1.8 million people jobless. Government defines an employed person as an adult (above 15) and one who has worked for at least one hour in the past three weeks when government conducted the survey.

So if you have no work and your mom sends you on an errand, to be paid with a tip, to buy *patis* or vinegar or detergent or a kilo of rice at a nearby store and it took you one hour because of traffic, you are considered employed. You have lowered unemployment.

On the other hand, you are not considered unemployed even if you have no job – if you are not looking for a job. Like housewives. Or you have stopped looking for work because you got exasperated because the job you want is simply not available. Government counts you as not part of the labor force. Government's problem is solved. Your problem of no work? That remains your problem.

Actually, 70 percent of 115 million Filipinos are 15 and above. That's 80 million. That is our labor force. Government, however, counts only 64 percent of 115 million as the actual labor force, or 73.6 million. And of that, only less than two million are jobless. Amazing.

* * *

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Agri group warns vs Charter change

BY JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL

AN agricultural group is warning that proposed changes to the Constitution or Charter Change (Cha-cha) will expose 14.2 million hectares of alienable and disposable public lands to full foreign ownership, posing threats to farmers' livelihood.

"As if the 50-year allowable lease period to foreign investors stipulated in Republic Act 7652 or the Long-Term Lease of Private Lands by Foreign Investors is not enough,

Marcos Jr.'s Cha-cha will allow full ownership of lands by foreign entities," Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) Chairman Danilo Ramos said on Monday.

He added that suggested revisions in the economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution, such as in Sections 2, 3, 7, 10 and 11 of Article XII; Section 4 of Article XIV; and Section 11 of Article XVI, all involved foreign ownership.

In addition to land ownership, Ramos said that proponents of the proposed Cha-cha contend that the Constitution's restrictive and protectionist clauses should be removed, allowing foreign enterprises to acquire complete ownership of private assets, congressional franchises, educational

institutions, media outlets and essential public utilities.

"Marcos Jr.'s Cha-cha will only equate to the wanton plunder of our remaining land and natural resources," said Ramos.

Instead of focusing on land development to improve the local agriculture industry, he added, "Cha-cha will allow more foreign-owned extractive industries, logging, ecotourism, real estate projects, expansion of agro-corporation plantations, and other business operations intended for profit-making."

KMP added that 100 percent

foreign ownership of lands would likely threaten farmers through land grabbing, opportunistic land purchases, land banking and land sales.

Ramos emphasized that this could lead to widespread displacement of farmers and Indigenous people, imposition of higher land rents, increased hardships for farmers, cessation of farming activities, land misuse, and the erosion of agricultural livelihoods.

"In general, the proposed Charter change threatens the overall food security and self-sufficiency, as well as the livelihoods of the Filipino

people. It is anticipated to lead to widespread hunger, potential famines, loss of livelihoods, and an exacerbation of poverty," said Ramos.

Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez earlier said that the House of Representatives would study how to amend the Constitution to attract more foreign investments into the Philippines.

In December 2023, Romualdez said that revisiting the Constitution this year and easing its provisions limiting foreign ownership in certain industries in the Philippines was timely.



SAYS TRADE MINISTER

India has no plans yet to import wheat

NEW DELHI- India does not plan to import wheat and its farmers are likely to harvest a bumper crop that will boost stockpiles in the world's second-biggest producer of the staple, the trade minister said on Saturday.

"Ground reports indicate that the crop is quite good and this year's production is expected at a record 114 million metric tons," Piyush Goyal told reporters.

India banned wheat exports in 2022 after output was curtailed due to a heat wave, but more recently overseas sales picked up as Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent global prices to multi-year highs.

The government has sold around 6 million metric tons of wheat to local bulk buyers since June 1, when the state-run Food Corporation of India started selling the grain from its warehouses.

Despite selling wheat from its granaries, inventories at state warehouses are likely to remain



Workers sift wheat before filling in sacks at the market yard of the Agriculture Product Marketing Committee (APMC) on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. (Reuters Photo)

above the target of 7.46 million metric tons fixed for April 1, when a new marketing year starts, a top government official said earlier this month.

The country's wheat stocks at state warehouses stood at 16.47

million metric tons as of Jan. 1, the lowest since 2017.

Goyal said India would for now continue with its export curbs on wheat, rice and sugar.

"We are committed to protecting both consumers' and farmers'

interests," he said.

India, also the world's second-biggest rice producer, last year banned overseas shipments of non-basmati white rice. And New Delhi has also stopped mills from exporting sugar this year. - Reuters