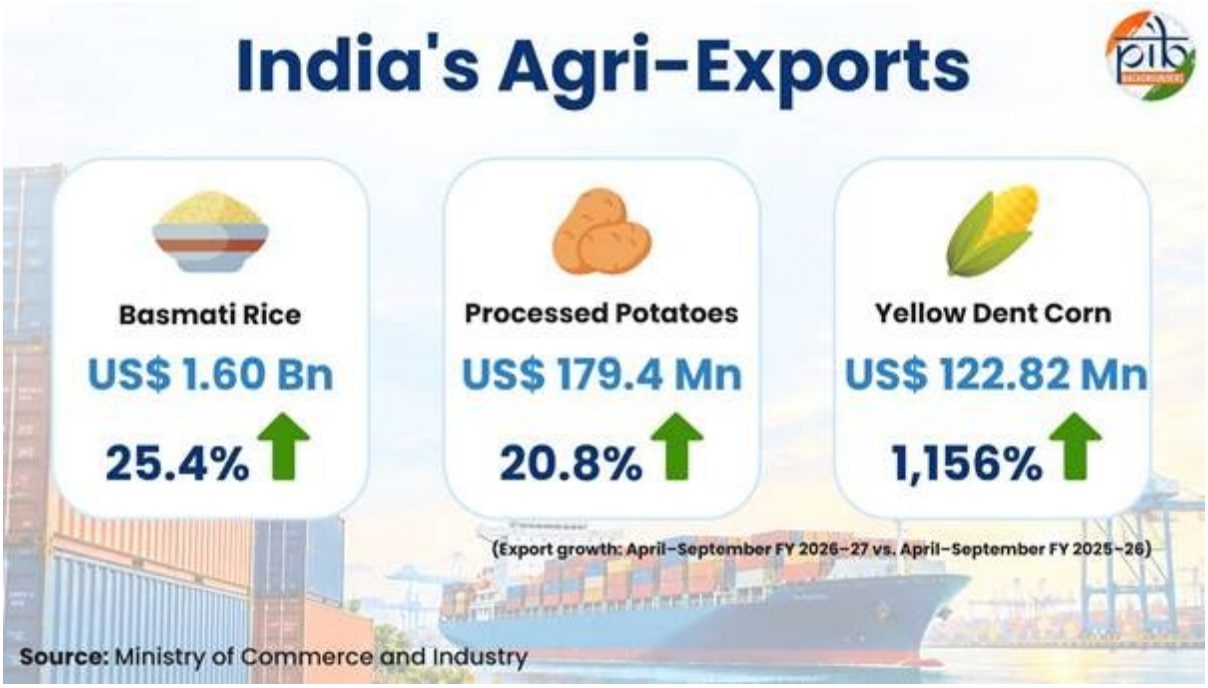
India’s Agricultural Exports Gain Momentum

PIB analysis

What is happening in India’s agri-exports?

- **Basmati Rice -** Exports rose about **25.4%**, climbing from **US$ 1.28 billion** in April–September FY 2025–26 to **US$ 1.60 billion** in April–September FY 2026–27.
- **Processed Frozen Potatoes -** Shipments of prepared or preserved frozen potatoes grew **20.8%**, increasing from **US$ 148.5 million** to **US$ 179.4 million** over the same period.
- **Yellow Dent Corn -** Exports surged by roughly **1,156%** (around 12-fold), jumping from **US$ 9.78 million** to **US$ 122.82 million**.



What is the commodity-wise performance and key destinations?

Commodity	Export Growth	Value (Apr-Sep FY 2026-27)
Basmati Rice	+25.4%	US$ 1.60 billion
Frozen Potatoes	+20.8%	US$ 179.4 million
Yellow Dent Corn	~+1,156%	US$ 122.82 million

Why market and product diversification matters?

- **Wider Geographic Footprint -** Growth across West Asia, East and Southeast Asia, North America, and other regions reduce reliance on any single destination.
- **Value Addition Beyond Raw Staples -** Growth in processed frozen potatoes alongside

traditional Basmati rice and yellow dent corn shows expanding demand for both staple grains and processed food products.

- **Understanding Percentage Jumps vs. Base Size -** Very large percentage spikes such as in yellow dent corn or specific country shipments like Vietnam and Jordan often reflect a small starting base in the previous year, so analysts look at both percentage rates and absolute dollar gains.



What are the challenges for sustaining agri-exports?

- **Buyer Concentration in Specific Commodities -** When a large share of a commodity's exports goes to a single destination (such as Vietnam accounting for over half of yellow dent

corn shipments in this period), shifts in that buyer's import demand can affect trade flows.
- **Quality, Cold-Chain, and Food Standards-** Processed and perishable items like frozen potatoes require reliable cold chains, strict quality compliance, and smooth logistics to stay competitive in Asian and global markets.
- **Global Price and Supply Fluctuations-** Agricultural trade remains sensitive to harvest conditions, global commodity prices, and shifting trade policies across importing countries.

What is the way forward?

- Invest in cold storage, processing facilities, grading, and quality testing so farmers and exporters can capture higher value from processed and perishable goods.
- Build on gains in West Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia while expanding outreach into additional compliant international markets.
- Support farmer groups and exporters with market intelligence, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) compliance, and farm-gate linkages so export growth translates into better farmer realization.

Reference

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