

ALL ODISHA RICE MILLERS ASSOCIATION

S-3/36 , Sec-A, Zone-B, Mancheswar Indl. Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

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Dated 16th September, 2019.

To,
The Secretary to Govt. of India,
Department of Food & Public Distribution,
Krishi Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001.

Sir,

Sub: Humble request for modification in para-1 of Uniform Specification of Rice for KMS 2018-19 to be made effective from subsequent Kharif Marketing Seasons.

Most respectfully, we draw your kind attention to the discussions made during the meeting with representatives of Federation of All India Rice Millers Association (FAIRMA) under your Chairmanship on 5.8.2019 in Room No.167, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. In course of discussion, mention was made by ***Sri Laxminarayan Deepak Ranjan Das from Odisha*** about few un-necessary and irrelevant references existing in the 1st Para of the Uniform Specification for Rice (KMS 2018-19) issued by the Department vide No.8-3/2018 S&I Dt. 21.8.2018. The relevant portion of the text is reproduced below:-

“Rice shall be in sound merchantable condition, sweet, dry, clean, wholesome, of good food value, uniform in colour and size of grains and free from moulds, weevilsprescribed hereunder.”

1. Submissions regarding: Merchantable condition, sweet, dry, clean, wholesome.

A miller has to ensure quality of rice as per prescribed FAQ norms which are derived after ensuring that all the 9 scheduled refractions are within the permissible limit. ***Apart from this, there is no mechanism as such to determine the merchantability or sweetness of the grain.*** Moreover, ***Dry*** (or moisture) is already taken care under refraction at Sl.No.9 which is Moisture content, ***Clean*** is under refraction at Sl.No.2 which is Foreign Matter and similarly ***Wholesome*** is under refraction at Sl.No.1 which is Broken. ***So mentioning all the above in the 1st Para has absolutely no meaning towards the determination of the FAQ Rice and its acceptance.*** On the contrary, it is simply utilized as a tool to harass the millers by few procurement officers deployed at the depot level during receipt of rice to extract money in the name of so called non-merchantability or sweetness.

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2. Submissions regarding: Uniformity in colour and size of grains.

Common variety of rice does not have any restriction about % of admixture of any other class of grains (*kindly refer Sl.No.7 which is mentioned as “Nil” in the Schedule of Specifications*). In other words, ***it is a variety which can accommodate any variety of rice irrespective of the length, width of the grain*** without any specific length/breadth ratio which is generally applicable to Grade ‘A’ or other superior classes. ***As such, uniformity in size can not be ensured in a lot of Common variety of rice as it may contain rice of different dimensions.***

Similarly, it may not be possible to maintain uniform colour ***particularly in Common Boiled Rice*** due to presence of grains with variable thickness and shapes having different properties and boiling points which can not withstood uniformly to accommodate steam/heat while undergoing hydrothermal process in a single vessel or parboiling tank. ***A little variation in the colour and texture in between the grains of different dimensions is quite natural in appearance which becomes visible after polishing of the boiled rice.*** However, this does not have any significant affect in the colour of cooked rice.

3. Conclusion:


Sir, in view of our above submissions and in the broader interest of establishing transparency and fair practice in the system, we most humbly request your honour to kindly consider suitable modification in the existing text at Para-1 by deleting irrelevant words to read as follows or as your honour may think fit:-

“Rice shall be free from moulds, weevils, obnoxious smell, admixture of unwholesome poisonous substances, Argemone mexicana and Lathyrus sativus (Khesari) in any form, or colouring agents and all impurities except to the extent in the schedule below. It shall also conform to prescribed norms under Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006/Rules prescribed hereunder.”

And for which act of kindness, we shall remain grateful.

Copy to: Commissioner-cum-Secretary, FS&CW Dept, Odisha.
CMD, FCI, New Delhi.
Sri Tarsem Lal Saini, President, FAIRMA.

Yours faithfully,


(Santosh Kr. Agrawal),
Chairman.

Dated: Bhubaneswar 16th Sept,2019.



(All Odisha Rice Millers Association)