



**INDIAN OILSEEDS & PRODUCE EXPORT PROMOTION
COUNCIL (IOPEPC)**

(Under Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India)

ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Vision Document



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Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC)

Vision document for Indian Oilseeds Sector

1. Vision Statement:

To create a sustainable ecosystem in the Indian Oilseeds sector wherein all concerned stakeholders complement each other.

2. Mission Statement:

To strive towards making India a prominent producer, manufacturer, exporter of Quality Oilseeds and Premium Oils to the World market.

3. Introduction of Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC)

IOPEPC is engaged in the development and promotion of exports of Oilseeds and Oils. Besides focusing on exports, the Council also works towards strengthening domestic supply chain by encouraging farmers, shellers, processors, exporters, surveyors and various other service providers to enhance the quality of Oilseeds in India.

Presently, IOPEPC serves as the common interactive forum for all the stakeholders of the Oilseeds sector. It plays an important role in bridging the gaps and effective flow of information between various concerned Indian Government departments, research institutions and international authorities globally for effective addressal of issues and challenges.

Since 1991, IOPEPC has been functioning as the Indian liaison office of FOSFA International, London and is also a kindred Association Member of FOSFA.

4. Indian Oilseeds sector in Brief:

- India is one of the largest producer and consumer of edible Oils in the World.
- Out of these 7 edible Oilseeds crop grown in India, 3 Oilseeds **Soyabean, Groundnuts and Rapeseed-Mustard contribute about 86% in area and 90 % in production of total Oilseeds.**
- About 60% of edible Oil available in the country is imported. The bulk import edible Oils in India are of:
 - Palm Oil from Malaysia and Indonesia
 - Soyabean Oil from Argentina and Brazil
 - Sunflower Oil from Ukraine and Russia.

- Export of Oilseeds in value terms is about USD 1.3 billion (130 crore USD) which mainly comprises of Groundnuts and Sesame seeds.

5. Present Indian Oilseeds Export Scenario with focus on Groundnut and Sesame Seeds

- The total export of Oilseeds sector in value terms is around 1.34 billion USD (134 crore dollar),(April 22 to March 2023) out of which Sesame seed & Groundnuts constitute to 92 % wherein in Groundnut contributes 61% and Sesame contributes 31%.
- In the year 2022-2023, Indian Oilseeds export in value terms has shown a positive growth of 30% compared to previous year.
- In the current year i.e 2023- 24, the growth in oilseeds sector for period April 2023 – May 2023 is 20% higher compared to the same period last year.

Table showing Export contribution in value terms of each Oilseed for last 4 years with growth comparison of year 2022-23 with year 2021-2022.

Value in Rs Crores

Commodity	Apr-2019-Mar-2020	Apr-2020-Mar-2021	Apr-2021-Mar-2022	Apr-2022-Mar-2023	% growth 2022-23 over 2021-2022	Apr-May-2023
Groundnut	5096	5380	4697	6735	43%	1338
Sesame Seed	3723	3159	3036	3413	12%	551
Groundnut+ Sesame Seed	8819	8540	7733	10148	31%	1889
Mustard/ Rapeseed	137	282	278	354	28%	59
Linseed	81	86	118	163	39%	22
Niger Seeds	106	160	62	83	34%	18
Soyabean	313	314	311	289	-7%	10
Safflower Seed	14	19	17	16	-6%	3
Sunflower Seed	6	9	13	12	-4%	2
Cottonseed	11	15	6	9	54%	0
Total	9487	9424	8537	11075	30%	2004

Figure 1 Source: -MoC

Share of Individual Oilseeds in % terms in the Export of Indian Oilseeds of last 4 years.

Commodity	Apr-2019- Mar-2020	Apr-2020- Mar-2021	Apr-2021- Mar-2022	Apr-2022- Mar-2023	Apr-May- 2023
Groundnut	54%	57%	55%	61%	67%
Sesame Seed	39%	34%	36%	31%	27%
Groundnut+Sesame Seed	93%	91%	91%	92%	94%
Mustard/ Rapeseed	1%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Linseed	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Niger Seeds	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Soyabean	3%	3%	4%	3%	1%
Safflower Seed	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Sunflower Seed	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Cottonseed	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

6. Factors contributing to Export growth of Groundnuts and Sesame seeds :

Groundnuts :

- Noticeable reduction in aflatoxin residue rejections on account of increasing awareness about Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) amongst farmers and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) amongst processors.
- Implementation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for export of Groundnuts is gradually facilitating in increasing the confidence of the international buying community.
- Effectively addressing TBT issues with buying countries has also helped in encouraging the exporters to increase their export volumes.
- Consistent supply, competitive prices and quality assurance have transformed India as a quality and reliable supplier of Groundnuts to the international market.

Sesame Seeds :

- **Noticeable reduction in Pesticides residue and Salmonella rejections on account of increasing awareness about Good Agricultural Practices amongst farmers and Good Manufacturing Practices amongst processors.**
- **Promotion of Summer crop in Gujarat and other states has not only added to the production but ensured that quality seeds are available round the year for export purpose.**
- **Implementation of Standard operating procedure (SOP) for export to EU has resulted in Zero detection of ETO residue, substantial decrease in Rapid alerts issued by EU commission for Pesticide residue and salmonella contamination.**
- **Effectively addressing TBT issues with buying countries has also helped in encouraging the exporters to increase their export volumes.**

7. Challenges faced by Oilseed Sector with focus on Groundnuts and Sesame Seeds.

The quality and safety standards of international markets are very dynamic and they keep changing their goal post.

Groundnut:

- **Even though awareness about GAP and GMP is on a rise, thanks to the efforts taken by the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) , Indian Research Institutions and the Council but still there is lot to be done in this area.**
- **The seed replacement ratio (SRR) and variety replacement ratio (VRR) has been low thereby affecting yields and productivity.**
- **Aflatoxin residue requirements of the European Union (EU):**

The permitted levels of Aflatoxin for imported Groundnuts for Human consumption into European Union (EU) is Total 4 ppb (Parts per Billion) whereas in the United States of America it is 20 ppb.

Since EU is the 2nd largest importer of Groundnut in the World, IOPEPC has been taking up with EU authorities to bring the Maximum residue level of Aflatoxin to 10 PPB. The Council has been participating in all the International Peanut Forum and Codex meeting to impress upon the EU to relax the permissible level of aflatoxin to 10 ppb.

- **Major Issues connected with Technical barriers to trade (TBT):**

- 1) The right of second opinion or re-test in case of official sample being found Non-compliant by Border control in EU.**

It is presumed that the right to demand for second opinion is only available to EU based buyer (Food Business Operator). Such a presumption should not apply in a situation where the goods are being imported from a third country into EU.

It is to be noted that the goods are sampled and tested at border controls before clearing the same for trade and commerce in EU.

During testing if the official sample is found to be Non – compliant then the Food Business operator of the exporting country (Third country exporter) is also under full right to call for second opinion/ re-test as he is still the legal and natural custodian of the goods.

It has been noticed in past that occasionally the FBO's based in EU (buyer) intentionally does not use their right for second opinion as sometimes commercially it is not in his interest and rejection of consignment under the pretext of official sample being found non – compliant is a safe option for him. In such a situation the FBO of the exporting country should have the option to exercise its right of second opinion.

- 2) Indian Groundnut- Peanut Butter to United States of America (USA)**

India is advancing in terms of production of Peanut Butter in the last five (5) years, with an annual production estimated to be around 30,000 MT to 35,000 MT. Production is slated to increase (maybe double) due establishment of an additional five units.

This quota allotted to India is minuscule and a separate quota of at least 15,000 tons should be earmarked by US only for India. While Canada enjoys a separate quota of 14,500 tons, Argentina too has a separate quota of 3650 tons.

There needs to be an immediate increase in the quota for export of Peanut Butter to United States of America by doubling the present quota from 1600 MT to 3200 MT and subsequently increase the quota in a phased manner to 15,000 MT in 2 – 3 years.

3) Absolving the Indian exporter's name flashed on Rapid Alerts where aflatoxin in peanuts is detected in the country other than first port of entry.

Many a times the name of Indian exporter is flashed in Rapid Alerts in spite of fact that consignments is cleared in the first port of entry and fails in other country after it is sold by the importer (first buyer). In such situation, it is important to see whether the first buyer has changed the packaging or have further processed the goods, in that case accountability should not rest upon the exporter and he should not be held responsible. Rapid Alert once flashed will result in the next 10 consignments being tested by EU authorities. This will expose the Indian exporter to larger risk.

Sesame Seeds:

- Yields during the Kharif crop have been consistently decreasing in India thereby creating an inadequate supply situation to cater the growing domestic and export demand.
- Shortage of raw material and high prices are forcing major buying countries to cover their requirements from Africa and Latin America.
- Even though awareness about GAP and GMP is on the rise, thanks to the efforts taken by MoC, MoA, Indian Research Institutions and Council but still there is lot to be done in this area.
- Less availability of certified seeds to the farmers leading to low seed replacement ratio (SRR) and variety replacement ratio (VRR) thereby affecting yields and productivity.
- Growing Food safety concerns namely pesticides residue and microorganisms' contamination also need immediate corrective action plan. With increase in sampling and testing in foreign countries, the cases of detection of pesticide residue and microorganism have increased.

Major Issues connected with Technical barriers to trade (TBT):

- **EU commission should withdraw the mandatory requirement of Physical checks for ETO in Sesame seeds originating from India at border controls of EU member States.**

IOPEPC has worked extensively in creating awareness about Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). All the efforts of IOPEPC have resulted in

substantial reduction in Pesticides residue rapid alerts in EU for Indian Sesame seeds over a period of 2 years.

Since 1st January 2022 there is only 1 rapid alert issued by EU for ETO residue detected in Indian Sesame seeds against total 1168 consignments (25156.34 MT) shipped.

There is no bona fide reason to continue with physical checks for ETO residue in Sesame seeds especially when there are no cases of contamination. Mandatory physical checks result in delay in clearance at port, increase in cost of the product due to application of Detention and demurrage charges, sampling and testing charges at exporting and importing country.

The EU commission needs to withdraw the mandatory requirement of Physical checks for ETO in Sesame seeds originating from India at border controls of EU member States.

- **Consignments that have been detained for testing/sampling/quality reasons by port authorities at destination ports should be allowed to be destuffed on request of the importer/exporter.**

It has been observed in many cases that during the period when the decision is pending by the destination port health authorities, the cargo is not allowed to be destuff from the container which ultimately results in exorbitant detention and demurrage charges which have to be borne by the exporter. Such a situation is unjustified and acts as a technical trade barrier.

If the port does not have a storage facility, then the exporter /importer should be allowed to destuff the cargo in a custom bonded warehouse or any other warehouse under seal of port health authorities until the decision is taken.

- **Sampling and analytical procedure- In most of the rapid alerts flagged, samples have been drawn by FBOs and analyzed by Private Laboratories.**

The sampling as well as analysis should be done by EU recognized laboratories. There is no evidence to confirm whether the FBOs have drawn samples in accordance with the procedure laid out in EU Regulation no- 2002/63 dated 11th July 2002 and therefore the samples drawn cannot be treated as official samples/ representative samples of the lot which is being sampled and tested. Further, samples drawn by FBO can also lead to conflict of interest as they are party to the commercial transaction involved with the Indian exporter.

- **Need to Harmonize the testing and sampling procedure within EU states and also with India so to avoid deviation in results.**

Laboratories in EU are not following common sampling, extraction analytical procedure. Intermittent proficiency test should be carried out for harmonizing the procedures between EU and Indian labs.

- **The right of second opinion in case of official sample being found Non-compliant by Border control in EU.**

It is presumed that the right to demand for second opinion is only available to EU based buyer (Food Business Operator). Such a presumption should not apply in a situation where the goods are being imported from a third country into EU.

It is to be noted that the goods are sampled and tested at border controls before clearing the same for trade and commerce in EU.

During testing if the official sample is found to be Non – compliant then the Food Business operator of the exporting country (Third country exporter) is also under full right to call for second opinion as he is still the legal and natural custodian of the goods.

Occasionally the FBO's based in EU (buyer) intentionally does not use their right for second opinion as sometimes commercially it is not in his interest and rejection of consignment under the pretext of official sample being found non – compliant is a safe option for him. In such a situation the FBO of the exporting country should have the option to exercise its right of second opinion.

- **There is no uniformity amongst various Border Control Posts (BCPs) regarding return of rejected cargo either to India or third country.**

Spain is ordering destruction of cargo while other EU countries are allowing re-dispatch. If the competent authority in other country is ready to accept the cargo, EU should not have any objection for return of cargo.

The work on rules to ensure consistency across all BCPs of decisions and measures taken and orders issued by competent authorities in accordance with Article 66 and 67 of OCR is in progress". There needs to be a timeframe for this consistency to happen.

- **Revision in Korean tariff rate Quota (TRQ) for Indian Sesame seeds:**

Korea has a system of Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) which provide substantial lower duty on the imports from countries like China. Also, Asian countries have duty free access for export of Sesame powder to Korea under ASEAN Free Trade Agreement

Currently, majority of Sesame Seeds export from India are being made under Public tender route, on which 40% duty is levied. Also, Roasted Sesame Seeds powder from India is also subject to 40% duty (NIL for ASEAN countries), due to which export of this item is nearly zero. Therefore, China and ASEAN countries are at distinct advantage over India.

In view of the above India should seek duty free quota of 30,000 tons of Sesame seeds and roasted Sesame seeds powder under Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and Groundnut and Groundnut Oil attract a duty of 230.5% and 27% duty respectively and their separate duty-free import quota should be earmarked under CEPA.

The above-mentioned matter needs to be addressed to the concerned Korean Authorities so that Indian Sesame seed and Groundnut is included under the TRQ of Korea. A lower import duty on Sesame seed and Groundnuts imported from India will prove to be of immensely value for enhancing its exports to Korea thereby supporting the cause of achieving the export target.

8) IOPEPC approach to address the Challenges.

Short term Goal (2023 - 2024) of the IOPEPC are as follows:-

- 1) Farmers increasing Seed Replacement Ration (SRR) of Groundnut and Sesame Seeds
- 2) Increasing the Yield of Groundnut and Sesame seed
- 3) Promoting Sesame seed and Groundnut cultivation in the Summer crop
- 4) Conducting Pilot projects in one or two states for Groundnut and Sesame seeds using Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), storage practices
- 5) Introducing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) specifically targeting specific countries
- 6) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) related issues needs to be efficiently and effectively address the above-mentioned concerns
- 7) Participation in International Trade Fairs, Reverse Buyer - Seller meets, and organising international events (conferences) to apprise the

international community about the latest developments in the Oilseeds sector and project India as a reliable and quality supplier of Oilseeds, Oils and its value-added products.

- 8) Conducting competition study for our products. This will provide information on the disadvantage our product faces in different destinations to strategize measures to overcome them.
- 9) The Council proposes to coordinate between the Research Institutes, State Governments and their respective agencies and the Central Government to assess the gaps and arrive at the possible solutions to achieve the goals.

The above solutions will facilitate to achieve the target set by MoC of US\$ 1420 Million for the year 2023-24 and to continue to contribute to meet India's \$1 trillion target for by the year 2030. In order to enable the same and since India is the largest exporter of Groundnut in the World, the Council is planning to accompany the delegation led by MoC to visit Russia and participate in World Food Moscow to enhance the order bookings for export to Russia.

The Council is also planning to participate in the delegation led by Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister to Japan in 2023 in order to create traction and restart the export of Sesame seed to Japan. Since Japan is one of the 5 largest importer of Sesame seed in the World.

Medium Term Goal of IOPEPC till 2030:

- With the help of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICAR, IIOR and other concerned institution, increase the availability of certified seeds to the farmers which would result in noticeable increase in SRR and VRR.
- To focus on production of seeds quality suitable for international standards and requirement.
- To make India as the single largest producer and exporter of quality Sesame seeds and Groundnuts in the World.
- Promote Brand India.
- To enter into MoU's with various state Governments to initiate pilot projects for promotion of GAP with an objective to increase yields, productivity and quality.

The Council is in dialogue with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare in the State of Madhya Pradesh to initiate Pilot project with an objective of increasing the yield, production and productivity, with the support of the state Government and the scientific fraternity with whom the Council has signed Memorandum of Understanding such as ICAR – Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad.

Long term Goal of IOPEPC till 2047 :

- To replicate the growth of export of Groundnut and Sesame Seeds to other Oilseeds
- To Create a brand India for all Oilseeds.
- To create a sustainable ecosystem in the Indian Oilseed sector wherein all concerned stakeholders complement each other.

9) Potential / Prospects of Oilseed export Sector

GROUNDNUT:

- Presently, the Export share in volume terms of Indian Groundnuts in the global export market is about 19% which brings India at par with Argentina export volumes. Thus, it can be said that India is the largest Groundnut exporter in the World. Primarily the application of Groundnuts in Global trade is more for food use rather than edible Oil. The price realization for food use is higher than Groundnuts for crushing.
- There is a good potential for India to increase its export volumes
- Europe is by far the largest importing region for Groundnuts in the World (for food use) , accounting for 1/3 of the total World trade.
- Netherlands is the 2nd largest importer of Groundnuts in the World with share of about 11%. There are other countries in EU like Germany which also enjoy a share of about 3% or so.
- India has negligible presence in EU market. Considering the corrective measures being implemented by India, there is a good possibility that India would be able to comply with the Aflatoxin residue levels of EU resulting in increased exports to the EU market.
- With consistent quality and competitive prices, India can further enhance its market share in the ASEAN region, which is today the largest export market for Indian Groundnuts.
- China is the largest importer but our competing African countries have a duty advantage of about 9% due to preferential trade agreement. China covers almost all its Groundnuts requirement from African countries mainly Senegal and Sudan. Incase, in future the duty advantage ceases to exist with African countries, India would then have a big chance to cater the Chinese requirements. Meanwhile the Government of India while negotiating on 'The Asia Pacific Trade Agreement' (APTA) can negotiate to bring them on lower or NIL duty.

Top 10 Global Exporters of Groundnut with their share in % terms

(Qty in 1000 T)					
		Oct-Sept-2021-2022		Oct-Sept-2022-2023(Estimates)	
Sr.No.	Country	Qty in 1000 Tons	% to Total	Qty in 1000 Tons	% to Total
1	INDIA	511	15%	660	19%
2	ARGENTINA	700	21%	650	19%
3	SUDAN	370	11%	430	12%
4	U.S.A	413	12%	390	11%
5	BRAZIL	282	9%	310	9%
6	CHINA,PR	270	8%	270	8%
7	SENEGAL	181	5%	200	6%
8	NICARAGUA	87	3%	88	3%
9	TANZANIA	55	2%	58	2%
10	EGYPT	54	2%	48	1%
	Others	383	12%	337	10%
	Total	3306	100%	3441	100%

Source:-Oil World-2022/23

Top 10 Global Importers of Groundnut with their share in % terms.

(Qty in 1000 T)					
		Oct-Sept-2021-2022		Oct-Sept-2022-2023(Estimates)	
Sr.No.	Country	Qty in 1000 Tons	% to Total	Qty in 1000 Tons	% to Total
1	China,PR	584	18%	780	23%
2	Nether lands	359	11%	352	10%
3	Indonesia	345	11%	320	9%
4	Mexico	175	5%	162	5%
5	Russia	133	4%	158	5%
6	Canada	143	4%	144	4%
7	U.K	133	4%	130	4%
8	Vietnam	76	2%	130	4%
9	Germany	100	3%	120	3%
10	Philippines	95	3%	92	3%
	Others	1108	34%	1077	31%
	Total	3252	100%	3465	100%

Source:-Oil World-2022/23

SESAME SEEDS:

- India is one of the largest exporters of Sesame seeds and its value-added products in the World and has good export prospects in coming years.
- China is the largest importer followed by South Korea, Japan and Turkey.
- Subject to implementation of corrective measures mentioned in this document, there are good chances for India to regain lost markets and make inroads in major markets like EU, Japan, South Korea and Turkey.
- India is fully equipped to regain EU and Japanese market in short term on account of streamlining the issues of ETO and Pesticides residue along with Salmonella contamination.
- China is the largest importer of Sesame seeds which is presently catered by the African origins having import duty advantage against India for export to China. Change in preferential duty structure in future can change the exports dynamics of Indian Sesame seeds.
- Indian Sesame seeds industry is a mature industry with all the required infrastructure and most important the required quality conscious mindset. India has learnt from past mistakes and has been investing in ensuring export of food products safe of human consumption. Whereas the competing countries mainly African countries has still a long way to go in terms of consistent quality complying with the international food safety standards. This situation puts India as the most reliable supplier having bright export potential.

Top 10 Global Exporters of Sesame Seed with their share in % terms

(Qty in 1000 T)					
Sr.No.	Country	Oct-Sept-2021-2022		Oct-Sept-2022-2023(Estimates)	
		Qty in 1000 Tons	% to Total	Qty in 1000 Tons	% to Total
1	SUDAN	317	14%	350	15%
2	NIGER	205	9%	235	10%
3	INDIA	262	11%	180	8%
4	ETHIOPIA	191	8%	180	8%
5	BURKINO FASO	172	7%	170	7%
6	NIGERIA	141	6%	155	7%
7	TANZANIA	108	5%	130	6%
8	MYANMAR	175	7%	120	5%
9	PAKISTAN	129	5%	110	5%
10	BRAZIL	66	3%	105	5%
	Others	586	25%	562	24%
	Total	2351	100%	2297	100%

Source:-Oil World -2022/23

Top 10 Global Importers of Sesame Seed with their share in % terms

(Qty in 1000 T)					
		Oct-Sept-2021-2022		Oct-Sept-2022-2023(Estimates)	
Sr.No.	Country	Qty in 1000 Tons	% to Total	Qty in 1000 Tons	% to Total
1	CHINA,PR	1137	48%	960	42%
2	TURKIYE	175	7%	176	8%
3	JAPAN	184	8%	170	8%
4	INDIA	22	1%	120	5%
5	KOREA,SOUTH	90	4%	81	4%
6	IRAN	56	2%	63	3%
7	ISRAEL	55	2%	58	3%
8	TAIWAN	39	2%	37	2%
9	VIETNAM	37	2%	36	2%
10	GREECE	32	1%	34	2%
	Others	535	23%	529	23%
	Total	2363	100%	2264	100%

Source:-Oil World -2022/23

10) Initiatives taken by IOPEPC to improve quality productivity and competitiveness of Indian Oilseed Export.

- Raised the burning issue of non-availability of certified seeds to farmers and urgent need to increase the SRR and VRR for Sesame seeds and Groundnuts
- Council believes in strengthening the complete value chain so that all stakeholders complement each other resulting in a sustainable eco system. With this objective, the Council has been conducting Farmer Melas across India to create awareness of Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), distributed leaflets providing relevant information in local languages
- Participated in Agriculture Exhibitions and with the support of ICAR-IIOR provide technical and scientific agriculture related information to the visitors at the stall.
- Implementation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) by IOPEPC for export of Sesame Seeds to European Union, (EU) facilitating in reducing the rejections of Indian Sesame seed export consignments to the EU.
- Increasing the EU confidence in Indian Sesame seeds resulting in EU commission to withdraw the mandatory physical sampling and testing requirement for pesticides.
- Conduct Crop Survey for Rabi and Kharif Crops in the major growing states of India with an objective to collect and maintain data about yields,

pesticide usage, region wise Agricultural practices, region wise varieties sowed, impact of change in monsoon pattern.

IOPEPC has understood the need for a collaborated effort of all the stakeholders in the supply chain comprising Exporters, Shellers, Processors, Traders, Farmers, Scientists, breeders etc With objective to achieve above goals and overcome challenges. IOPEPC has taken proactive steps and signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the following:-

- 1) Indian Council of Agriculture Research -Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad and Project Coordinator, AICRP Sesame and Niger, Jabalpur.
- 2) The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- 3) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- 4) ICAR- Directorate of Groundnut Research, Junagadh

The above MoU's have been entered into with an objective of working together towards creating awareness about Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) amongst farmers and to increase the Area, Yield , Production, Productivity of quality Oilseeds to enable self-sufficiency in Oilseeds and be able to increase the quantity of its exports from India. IOPEPC conducts Farmer Mela's, Capacity building programmes, Regional meetings across India to connect with the farmers, hullers, processors, traders and create awareness about GAP and GMP for cultivation of quality Oilseeds with the assistance from the scientific fraternity from ICAR-IIOR.

The Council is in dialogue with the Commissioner of Agriculture, Government of Madhya Pradesh, with the Additional Chief Secretary, Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh along with the scientists from ICAR-IIOR for initiating a pilot project for cultivation of Quality Sesame seeds in selected districts of Madhya Pradesh.

The Council has approached the concerned agriculture departments of all major Groundnut and Sesame growing states of India and currently in final stages of entering MOU with Government of Madhya Pradesh. Discussions with other states is under progress.

11. Impact of past Trade Agreements and what is expected from future Trade Agreements:

APTA : Oilseeds have not been part of the APTA agreement re-negotiation. If Groundnuts and Sesame seed are brought within this agreement for lower or NIL duty it will substantially enhance our exports.

CEPA : Oilseeds sector has not been a focus. With a paradigm shift to eating healthy food there is huge scope of nutritional Oilseeds like Sesame Seeds and Groundnuts. It is important that tariffs should be decreased for specific Oilseeds which would result in impressive export demand.

Expectations from Future Trade Agreements:

The Indian agriculture sector has been showing growth with product quality matching the international standards. With scientific approach and technology upgrade, there is huge scope to increase the yields and productivity in India so to cater the growing domestic and international demand.

Agriculture sector can be a focus for future trade agreements starting with specific Agri commodities and later gradually increasing the basket. Oilseeds sector with focus on Groundnut and Sesame seeds has huge export potential.

Our hopes are pinned on the future trade agreements as the respective regional desk has been recently very active in compilation of the issues with an objective to use it as an effective tool/s for negotiation against the focused countries and hopefully will bear its fruits in time to come.

Concluding remarks :

India has huge potential for export of Oilseeds and achieving self-sufficiency for edible Oils. With focus on increasing the SRR and VRR, there can be a noticeable increase in yields and productivity. With proper coordination and exchange of information within the concerned Government departments, research institutions and respective EPCs, India can match the quality standards and offer competitive prices to the World market.