



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Basmati Rice

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Why is in news? First time in India, FSSAI notifies comprehensive regulatory standards for Basmati Rice; Will be enforced from 1st August, 2023

For the first time in the country, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has specified the identity standards for Basmati Rice (including Brown Basmati Rice, Milled Basmati Rice, Parboiled Brown Basmati Rice and Milled Parboiled Basmati Rice) vide **Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2023** notified in the Gazette of India.

As per these standards, Basmati rice shall possess **natural fragrance characteristic** of basmati rice and be **free from artificial colouring, polishing agents and artificial fragrances**.

These standards also **specify various identity and quality parameters** for basmati rice such as average size of grains and their elongation ratio after cooking; maximum limits of moisture, amylose content, uric acid, defective/damaged grains and incidental presence of other non-basmati rice etc.

The standards are **aimed at establishing fair practices in the trade of Basmati rice and protect consumer interest**, both domestically and globally. These standards will be enforced w.e.f 1st August, 2023.

Basmati rice is a **premium variety of rice** cultivated in the **Himalayan foothills of the Indian sub-continent** and is universally known for its long grain size, fluffy texture and unique inherent aroma and flavour.

Agro-climatic conditions of the specific geographical areas where Basmati rice is grown; as well as the method of harvesting, processing and ageing of the rice contributes to the uniqueness of Basmati rice.

Due to its unique quality attributes, Basmati is a widely consumed variety of rice both domestically and globally and **India accounts for two thirds of its global supply**.

Being a premium quality rice and fetching a price higher than the non-basmati varieties, Basmati rice is **prone to various types of adulteration** for economic gains which may include, among others, undeclared blending of other non-basmati varieties of rice.

Therefore, in order to ensure supply of standardised genuine Basmati rice in domestic and export markets, FSSAI has notified regulatory standards for Basmati rice that have been framed through extensive consultations with the concerned government departments / agencies and other stakeholders as well.

The **areas of Basmati Rice production** in India are the states of **J & K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand and western Uttar Pradesh**.

India is the **leading exporter** of Basmati Rice to the global market. The country has exported 3,948,161.03 MT of Basmati Rice to the world for the worth of Rs. 26,416.49 Crores/ 3,540.40 US\$ Mill.) during the year 2021-22.

Major Export Destinations (2021-22): Iran, Saudi Arab, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, U S A and Yemen Republic.

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