সমকাল

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রাজশাহীর পানের রপ্তানি বন্ধ থাকায় বড় দর পতন

পানে সালমোনেলা ব্যাকটেরিয়া

পানির দরে পান বিক্রি করে পুঁজি হারাচ্ছেন চাষিরা

■ রাজশাহী ব্যুরো

এক সময় রাজশাহীর মিঠাপান মধ্যপ্রাচ্যসহ ইউরোপের বিভিন্ন দেশে রপ্তানি হতো। লাভজনক হওয়ায় গত সাত বছরে পানের আবাদ দ্বিগুণ হয়েছে। গত বছর এ পান জিআই পণ্য হিসেবে স্বীকৃতিও পায়। তবে সালমোনেলা ব্যাকটেরিয়ার উপস্থিতির কারণে মিঠাপান রপ্তানি এখন অনেকটাই বন্ধ। উৎপাদন বেড়ে যাওয়া ও রপ্তানি বন্ধ থাকায় দেশের বাজারে পানের বড় দর পতন হয়েছে। পানির দরে পান বিক্রি করে পুঁজি হারাচ্ছেন চাষিরা।

অল্প জমিতে সবচেয়ে বেশি টাকা দেয় পান। জেলা কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তরের ২০২২ সালের এক প্রতিবেদন সূত্রে জানা গেছে, সাড়ে চার হাজার হেক্টর জমিতে পান আবাদ করে রাজশাহীর চাষিরা দুই হাজার কোটি টাকা আয় করেন। রাজশাহীর বাগমারা, মোহনপুর ও দুর্গাপুরে সবচেয়ে বেশি পান চাষ হয়।

তবে এবার একদমই দাম পাচ্ছেন না চাষিরা। তারা বলছেন, গত বছর এক বিড়া (৬৪টি) পান ১২০ টাকায় বেচা গেলেও এবার তা বিক্রি হচ্ছে ৩০ টাকায়, ৬০ টাকা দামের এক বিড়া পান ৩ থেকে ৪ টাকায়ও কেউ কিনতে চাইছেন না।

রাজশাহীর মৌগাছি বাজার পান ব্যবসায়ী সমিতির সভাপতি বয়েজুর রহমান বলেন, এই দামে পান বিক্রি করে উৎপাদন খরচও উঠছে না। আগে এক বিঘা জমিতে পান চাষ করলে দেড় লাখ টাকা খরচ হতো, বিক্রি করে আসত পাঁচ থেকে ছয় লাখ টাকা। এবার এক বিঘার বরজ থেকে পান বিক্রি করে ৭০ হাজার টাকাও আসছে না। সরকার যদি আবারও পান রপ্তানি করে, তাহলে চাষিরা বাঁচবেন। তা না হলে চাষিরা লোকসানে মাঠে মারা যাবেন।

মৌগাছি বাজার পান ব্যবসায়ী সমিতির সাধারণ সম্পাদক কাজী আজিজুল ইসলাম বলেন, সার, কীটনাশক, শ্রমিক– সবকিছুর দাম বেড়েছে। সুপারির দামও বেড়েছে। শুধু পানের দাম কমেছে। উৎপাদন বেশি হওয়ায় এই সংকট দেখা দিয়েছে। সরকার পান রপ্তানি পুরোদমে চালু না করলে দাম আর কখনোই উঠবে না। পান কাঁচামাল। এটা নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর রাখা যায় না।

কৃষি বিভাগ জানায়, ২০১৮ সালে দুই হাজার ৫৯৮ হেক্টর জমিতে পান চাষ হতো। লাভজনক হওয়ায় গত সাত বছরে পান চাষের জমি বেড়ে ৫ হাজার হেক্টর ছাড়িয়েছে। এতে প্রায় ৮০ হাজার টন পান উৎপাদন হচ্ছে। এর বর্তমান বাজারমূল্য প্রায় তিন হাজার কোটি টাকা।

রাজশাহী কৃষি সম্প্সারণ অধিদপ্তরের অতিরিক্ত উপপরিচালক পাপিয়া রহমান মৌরী বলেন, জৈব পদ্ধতিতে নিরাপদ ও ব্যাকটেরিয়ামুক্ত পান উৎপাদনের জন্য চাষিদের প্রশিক্ষণ দেওয়া হচ্ছে। রাজশাহীতে পান গবেষণাগার নির্মাণের পরিকল্পনাও রয়েছে। সালমোনেলা ব্যাকটেরিয়ার কারণে বিদেশে পান রপ্তানি বন্ধ আছে। ব্যাকটেরিয়ামুক্ত নিরাপদ পান উৎপাদন হলে আবারও রপ্তানি শুরু হবে। তিনি বলেন, ২০১৯ সালে পানে ব্যাকটেরিয়ার উপস্থিতি পাওয়া যায়। গত ছয় বছরেও কৃষককে সচেতন করা যায়নি। মূলত সেচের পানি থেকেই পানে সেলমোনেলা ব্যাকটেরিয়া পাওয়া যায়। আমরা চাষিদের পরামর্শ দিলেও ভূগর্ভস্থ নিরাপদ পানি দিয়ে তারা সেচ দিচ্ছেন না। আশা করছি, শিগগির রপ্তানি উপযোগী নিরাপদ পান আবারও চাষিরা উৎপাদন করবেন।

বাণিজ্য তথ্য কেন্দ্র
ঢাকা।
রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো

The Daily Star

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ICDs overwhelmed with export containers

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, *Ctg*

Privately operated inland container depots (ICDs) are grappling with a mounting backlog of export-laden containers, hampering cargo handling operations and pushing storage capacity to the brink.

Operators say the logjam is the result of an unexpected surge in export volumes in July. The problem was further exacerbated by delays in dispatching containers to the port as vessels stayed for longer than usual at jetties over the past month due to a number of disruptions, including a nationwide strike by revenue officials, weeks of customs server disruptions and work abstentions by prime mover operators.

According to the Bangladesh Inland Container Depots Association (BICDA), the country's 19 ICDs were handling 16,390 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of export containers as of Monday, which

Export containers handled by ICDs
(in TEUs)

Key facts

- 21 private ICDs in Ctg
- 19 ICDs handle 93% of export containers
- ICDs handled 7.50 lakh TEUs of export containers in 2024, up 13.5% yoy

SOURCE: BICDA

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

ICDs to the port every month in

received additional export export cargoes to the ICDs well

problem was further exacerbated by delays in dispatching containers to the port as vessels stayed for longer than usual at jetties over the past month due to a number of disruptions, including a nationwide strike by revenue officials, weeks of customs server disruptions and work abstentions by prime mover operators.

According to the Bangladesh Inland Container Depots Association (BICDA), the country's 19 ICDs were handling 16,390 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of export containers as of Monday, which more than double their usual comfortable capacity of 7,000 to 8,000 TEUs.

Transport of export containers to the port also faced delays due to the unavailability of vessels at jetties caused by berthing delay, creating a backlog at the ICDs

BICDA data also show that the ICDs altogether transported a total of 81,135 TEUs of export containers to the port in the month of July, the highest since January, when they handled 70,338 TEUs of containers.

The volume of export load containers transported from the ICDs to the port every month in the first half of this year was far lower.

In the last calendar year of 2024, the monthly average for the volume of export containers transported from the ICDs to the port stood at 62,546 TEUs.

BICDA Secretary General Md Ruhul Amin Sikder said, "The ICDs usually handle 60,000 to 70,000 TEUs of export containers in a month. But in July, the ICDs saw a noticeable surge in the volume of exports."

"In spite of such a surge, the ICDs managed to handle the additional volume of exports, transported those containers to the port and did not miss that many shipments," Sikder claimed.

According to the officials of several ICDs, apart from the 81,000 TEUs processed and shipped in July, the depots received additional export cargoes and stuffed those into around 18,000 TEUs of containers.

Dous Mohammad, chief executive officer of Portlink Logistics, one of the leading ICDs, said, "The sudden surge in the volume of exports was the main reason behind the pileup of export containers."

Moreover, transport of export containers to the port also faced delays due to the unavailability of vessels at jetties caused by berthing delay, creating a backlog at the ICDs, he added.

A major portion of these export shipments consisted of readymade garments (RMG).

Mohammad said due to uncertainties over an exorbitant hike in tariffs by the US, which is supposed to come into effect from August 7, many RMG owners sent their US-bound export cargoes to the ICDs well ahead of their delivery dates.

The aim was to ship the goods before the higher rate of tariff came into effect, which also added to the surge in the volume of exports, he said.

Khairul Alam Suzan, former vice president of Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association, was of the same opinion.

"Many US buyers urged the Bangladeshi suppliers to ship their cargo before the August 1 timeline to avoid the additional tariff," he said.

He, however, said RMG exports usually surge between June and August every year, eyeing the winter market in the West.

Sikder of BICDA said such congestion was hampering cargo handling operations inside the ICDs but the depots were trying hard to ensure that shipments were made on time.

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SOURCE: **BICDA**

PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

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The Financial Express

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US LNG exports surge in July

HOUSTON, Aug 5 (Reuters): Exports of US liquefied natural gas (LNG) jumped to 9.1 million metric tons (MT) in July, marking a sharp increase from June as some plants exited maintenance activities and Venture Global's Plaquemines facility ramped up production, preliminary data from financial firm LSEG showed.

The US is the world's largest exporter of LNG and July's output was its third highest on record. This year the US has seen three of its highest ever monthly LNG production figures, according to LSEG data.

US LNG shipments could have been higher had its third-largest export facility, Freeport LNG, not experienced several unplanned outages, reporting seven power outages at its plants to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality during the month of July. Its output fell in July to 1.3 million metric tons (MT) from 1.4 MT in June, LSEG data showed.

The US could double its LNG export capacity by 2030, based on projects already under construction and expected to get the financial greenlight as the industry builds momentum following U.S. President Donald's Trump's vow to bolster the country's energy industry.

This week Venture Global gave a positive final investment decision for its massive 28 million metric tons per annum (mtpa) CP2 facility in Louisiana.

In July, Plaquemines, also in Louisiana, exported 1.4 MT of the super chilled gas, compared to 1.2 MT in June, helping the U.S. get to 9.1 MT in July, compared to 8.4 MT in June, LSEG data showed.

LNG prices in both Asia and Europe fall in July

GAS PRICES FALL IN EUROPE AND ASIA

European gas prices fell in July to $11.56 per million British thermal unit (mmBtu) from $12.38 per mmBtu in June at the European benchmark Title Transfer Facility in the Netherlands, according to LSEG data.

Even so, the softer prices were not enough to deter U.S. LNG exports to Europe, which remained the favored destination. Some 5.25 MT of LNG, or just under 58% of July's total, headed to Europe during July, slightly lower than the 5.53 MT, or 66%, sold in June, LSEG data showed.

U.S. exports to Europe could increase in the coming years following a trade deal earlier this week in which the European Unionpromised to buy $750 billion of U.S. energy over a five-year period.

In July, gas prices were also lower in Asia, as the benchmark Japan Korea Marker JKMc1 fell to $12.18 per mmBtu from $12.90 per mmBtu in June.

Exports to Asia rose slightly during the month to 1.8 MT, or 20%, of U.S. LNG exports in July, compared to 1.56 MT, or 19%, in June as demand for energy for cooling grew, according to LSEG data.

"After lackluster Asian LNG demand for much of 2025 so far, hotter July weather drove some improvement," bankers from Morgan Stanley told their clients in a report on Wednesday.

US LNG exports to South America grew in July as the continent faced colder-than-normal seasonal weather.

The U.S. sold 1.03 MT, or 11% of its total LNG exports, to Latin America, with cargoes going to Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and Chile. Cargoes were also sold to several Caribbean countries, including Jamaica.

Egypt continued to import US LNG cargoes, buying eight in July, totaling .59 MT of the super chilled gas. There were also six cargoes with .43 MT of LNG that left U.S. ports in July with no clear destination, signaling they were available for orders.

The Financial Express

06 AUG 2025

India still remains a 'preferred' source of cotton for Bangladesh

MONIRA MUNNI

Bangladesh's spinners and traders still prefer India as a key destination in importing cotton and yarn due to factors like proximity, lower transportation costs and easy availability of essential raw material, industry insiders have said.

Because of such advantages, they usually import larger volume of cotton from the neighboring India, according to them.

Data, compiled by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) based on central bank figures, revealed that Bangladesh imported 19.40 per cent of its required raw cotton worth of US$ 684 million from India in the fiscal year of 2023-24.

Bangladesh imported US$ 3.52 billion worth of cotton --carded and combed-- in the fiscal year 2023-24, according to the available data.

Brazil remained the country's second-highest destination for cotton import with 16.11 per cent share in the FY '24, followed by Benin 12.03 per cent and USA 10.12 per cent.

Bangladesh imported $ 568 million worth of cotton from Brazil, $ 424 million from Benin and $ 357 million from the USA in FY'24 respectively.

Around 8.0 per cent of the imported cotton came from Burkina Faso, about 7.80 per cent from Australia, 7.01 per cent from Mali and 6.94 per cent from Cameroon in the said fiscal.

Bangladesh also imported cotton valued at $ 4.0 million and US$2.0 million from China and Pakistan respectively, according to data.

However, textile millers and garment exporters predicted that the volume of cotton import from the USA would rise significantly as the Trump administration recently announced that Bangladeshi made RMG would enjoy conditional duty waiver for using at least 20 per cent of American raw materials like cotton.

BGMEA president Mahmud Hasan Khan said Bangladesh imports the majority of its required cotton from India.

Due to the US's latest conditional duty waiver on use of at least 20 per cent American cotton to produce exportable garments for that country might reduce cotton import from other countries as local exporters are expected to enhance their sourcing from America to enjoy such benefit.

Initially, imports would decrease sources from Brazil, which will be followed by Australia, India and then African countries, he added.

Talking to the FE, Managing Director of Ha-meem Group AK Azad said they import cotton mostly from India, Brazil and Africa.

Now Bangladesh's cotton import from the USA would increase since the announcement of duty benefit, he added.

He, however, observed that though the US cotton is comparatively costly, its quality is good as it has low wastage rate.

He said his company needs organic cotton, and Bangladesh mostly imports it from India as other countries are unable to supply the same, said the MD of Ha-meem group, one of the largest exporters to the US market.

When asked, Sayeed Ahmad Chowdhury, Director at Square Denim, said his company imports up to 30 per cent of its required raw cotton from India due to the advantages of lower cost and fast shipments.

He also said previously, they were fully dependent on India for organic cotton and now they import such items from Turkey also.

Mr Chowdhury, however, said though the quality of US cotton is better than that of other countries in respect of its colour, whiteness and less wastage rate, they can't use American cotton in some woven items because of its 'fibre limitation'.

Echoing the same tone, Abdullah Hil Nakib, Deputy Managing Director of Team Group, said they import cotton from China and India for producing yarn and fabric and exportable finished garment items.

He, however, said clarification is necessary regarding the extent of duty waiver to be applicable in exporting apparel products to the US market.

He also hinted that the use of American cotton would increase in the days ahead.

Apart from cotton, Bangladesh's apparel makers prefer using Indian yarns due to higher prices of locally produced ones, cut in incentive.

Poor gas supply hampers local yarn production, thus raising its cost of manufacturing , local textile millers argued, saying that India exports yarn to Bangladesh at dumping rates.

Talking to the FE, former Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) president Fazlul Hoque said yarn imports increased mostly from India due to higher of local-produced item.

The average price gap between the local and imported combed yarns widened up to 40 cents per kg, he said, adding that apparel makers, having more capabilities including large storage facilities and long lead time, prefer imported yarn.

Besides, the rate of incentive, which earlier encouraged RMG exporters to source yarn from the local market, has been reduced by the government, he mentioned.

According to USITC data, Bangladesh imported US$2.9 billion worth of yarn in 2023.

In 2023, about 56 per cent or US$1.6 billion worth of total cotton were imported for producing yarn and India cotton accounted for more than three-quarters (77.2 per cent) of the imports.

Following the rise in yarn import, the government has suspended yarn import through land ports a few months back following appeals from the local millers.

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