

*Dated 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2011.*

*Dear Members,*

*Our Association has entered into the 7<sup>th</sup> year of its formation. Every single member deserves full credit for giving support and thereby making the presence of our Association felt every where.*

*We have participated in Seminars on Co-generation of Power from Rice Husk and Rice-Tech 2010 being organized in our State. A batch of 18 Rice Millers from different parts of our State had been to “Central Food Technological Research Institute (cftri), Mysore during April,2010 to attend a “Custom-made Training Programme on Rice Processing”. This shows the eagerness of millers for adoption of new technology through continuous learning. Unfortunately, we now miss one of the young participants Mr. Amit Chhaparia, Bargarh who expired few months later due to sudden illness.*

*Last KMS 2009-10 was quite disturbing so far as delivery of rice is concerned. There was shortage of space with Oscsc Ltd and the millers were left at the mercy of FCI for delivery of CMR. The millers were subjected to illegitimate demands and hidden costs at the delivery points. The virus is gradually spreading to other centers also. Millers have sympathy with the labourers but there has to be a sense of reasonableness and limit to the demands. Recently, the return of 18 trucks of Levy Rice by FCI, Khurda and some trucks of CMR from SWC, Balasore is quite unfortunate. Government should step in to resolve the issue before this becomes an epidemic.*

***In some districts, there had been cases of default in delivery of CMR for which Government may file criminal cases. However, with few exceptions, most of the cases are due to fraudulently delivery of paddy to some selected mills with little or non-existent milling capacity by local officials having hand-in-glove with such millers and both are equally guilty. It really hurts when genuine millers feel neglected and could not receive sufficient paddy to run their mills even for six months.***

*We are thankful to FS & CW Department for involving us in policy matters and frequent discussions during procurement review meetings. We also thank Oscsc Ltd for bringing transparency by implementing day to day data entry and adoption of computerization. **Accepting our long standing demand for delinking TC from milling charges and payment of TC from “0” KM is a welcome gesture. However, there is need to increase minimum TC to Rs.15/- per quintal for 1<sup>st</sup> 15 KM and to 50 paise per qtl/KM for subsequent distance as against existing 35 paise per qtl/KM.***

*Norms for “Pollution under Control” have become more stringent. Based on the pollution problem by a particular rice mill in a populated area in Sambalpur, every rice mill is issued a show cause notice irrespective of the fact whether it is in a densely populated area or in a remote field with plenty of available land and plantations. Millers are not adverse to keep pollution under control. But the effluent treatment plant has to be cost effective for this industry. Our State Government may come out with some incentive/subsidy scheme while the State Pollution Control Board may suggest a proto type low cost module for effective control of effluent. The millers are ready to co-operate.*

*In case of a normal harvest, about 70 lakh ton marketable surplus (in terms of rice) is available in our State. Government policies are generally formulated based upon its own requirement for PDS etc. which is just about 18 to 20 lakh tons per year. Because of various constraints like shortage of storage space and failure on the part of FCI to move surplus procurement to other states, Government and its Agencies can hardly handle procurement in excess of 30 to 35 lakh tons. The balance surplus of about 35 lakh tons goes illegally to the neighboring States of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh & Chhatishgarh. **Therefore, a long term parallel free-trade policy needs to be formulated to tap the pilferage of this surplus.** This will ensure competitive rates to farmers, generate more revenue to Government exchequer and also enable existing rice milling industry to operate continuously creating more employment opportunities. There is no dearth of entrepreneurship provided there is commercial viability and a well defined policy. The millers have been extending their full co-operation and will continue to do so. Thank you.*

*Bhubaneswar, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2011.*

*Santosh Kr. Agrawal,  
Secretary.*