

Dated 1st October, 2008.

Dear Members,

Our Association is going to complete four eventful years. It is my privilege to bring out this booklet for information of our esteemed members. Please spare some time and go through the contents. It may take some of your valuable time. But then only, you will be able to have an idea as to how much time it would have taken for us to prepare all this representations and to attend various meetings and seminars right from Bhubaneswar to New Delhi.

We are thankful to the Food & Civil Supplies Department, Government of Orissa for giving full co-operation from time to time. Food Commissioner had been kind enough to invite us to the review meetings jointly held with FCI, Civil Supplies Corporation and all other procuring agencies during the procurement season for instant remedy of various issues and better understanding with the agencies.

We do not believe in confrontation unless otherwise compelled. We are trying to put forth our grievances before the respective forum in a factual way and keep persuading the same till it is achieved. We thank FCI for accepting our proposal to reduce the Lot Size to 20 MT instead of earlier 27 MT. After much persuasion, we have been able to get handling and gunny depreciation charges on CMR from Civil Supplies Corporation for which we are thankful to them. Our genuine claim for reimbursement of Custody & Maintenance charges is still pending with the Corporation.

Our members have to take legal recourse after being aggrieved by the constant neglect by the Government of India in fixing a reasonable Rice Out-turn Ratio and a reasonable price for levy rice. In a landmark Judgement delivered on 14.08.2008 "In the matter of discrimination between rates paid to millers and to Government Agencies" in W.P.(C) No.7584 of 2006, the Hon'ble Orissa High Court, Cuttack has held that there is a discrimination and a directive is issued to the opposite parties to consider the said facts as given in the comparative charts and to take a final decision with regard to the amount to be paid to the private agencies towards the raw rice and par-boiled rice for the Khariff year in question as well as for subsequent Khariff years.

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Similarly, 10 writ petitions were filed before the Hon'ble Orissa High Court, Cuttack in the matter of arbitrary increase of Rice OTR in URS paddy by 1% than what was prevailing in earlier three years. All these petitions have been disposed in favour of petitioners by passing a common order on 10.09.2008. In W.P.(C) No.2517 of 2008, the Hon'ble High Court held that "...when there is no change in the percentage of the proportion (in damage and immature category) of paddy and there is no plausible reason assigned as to why the out turn ratio was reduced by 1% from 2% of OTR for FAQ.....reducing the percentage of out turn ratio to 1% from the OTR for FAQ, which in effect, amounts to compelling the petitioner-millers to deliver 1% more rice than the previous Kharif years is not based on any reasons and therefore.....is unsustainable." ".....this Court directs that the out turn ratio which was prevailing for the Kharif year 2006-07 at 2% less than the Out Turn Ratio for FAQ paddy shall be maintained for the Kharif year 2007-08."

Many thanks to Sri Subash Chandra Lal, Senior Advocate, Cuttack who has successfully argued both the above cases. Disposal of OTR case in less than a year is made possible only by his deep involvement in the matter and constant follow-up. I also thank Sri Anjani Agrawal, Jeypore (Koraput) for showing his tremendous courage in fighting against the injustice meted out by Government of India in the matter of price fixation.

Running an Association is not as easy as we often think. Expectations are very high. There are dark clouds everywhere but there is silver lining too. Just remember some of the memorable events:-

1. Formation of this Association on 15th Nov, 2004 during first meeting held at Hotel Crown, Bhubaneswar.
2. Meeting with Sri Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture, Food & Supply at Bhubaneswar on 28th Dec, 2004.
3. Being invited by Govt. of India to attend meeting at New Delhi on 17th Jan, 2005 in the matter of normative milling charges.
4. Being invited by Chairman, Tariff Commission, Govt. of India, New Delhi to attend meeting on 22nd July, 2005 to express views of our Association.
5. Addressing first ever Media Conference on 9th November, 2005 at Hotel Swosti, Bhubaneswar to communicate our decision that "In view of continued non-remunerating price of levy rice, the millers do not find it feasible to participate in Levy Rice Scheme." Just see the spontaneous media response.

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6. *Convening of General Body Meeting at Hotel Swosti Plaza, Bhubaneswar on Sunday, 3rd September, 2006 before a mammoth gathering of members and in presence of Office bearers of Federation of All India Rice Mills Association, New Delhi such as President Sri Tarsem Saini, Sr. Vice-president Sri Yogesh Agrawal, General Secretary Sri Sushil Choudhary, Vice President Sri Dilip Agrawal & Sri Venkatesh Rao apart from other delegates from the adjoining States of West Bengal, Andhra & Chattisgarh.*
7. *Sanction for payment of Gunny Depreciation by OSCSC vide Order No.13168/14.12.06 without which, participation with OSCSC would not have been feasible.*
8. *Getting Justice from Hon'ble Orissa High Court in the matter of discrimination in rates of levy rice and custom milled rice and also in the matter of arbitrary increase of OTR by 1% for URS paddy for 2007-08 KMS.*

*We have been able to keep our head high by co-operating the State Government in achieving an all time high procurement target. I thank all the members for their support and expect that more and more members will come forward to give support to this association. **Mr. Sonthalia has been providing full support to this Association without whom, it would not have been possible for me to perform. I sincerely thank him for remaining by my side in all crucial matters.** Thanking you & wish you all the best in the coming years.*

Bhubaneswar, 1st October, 2008.

*Sd/-.
(Santosh Kr. Agrawal)
Secretary.*