



Embassy of India

Bahrain

PRESS RELEASE

26 July, 2024

**Visit of delegation led by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export
Development Authority (APEDA)**

A 27-member Indian delegation comprising exporters of Basmati Rice, Processed Food & Animal Products, led by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), visited Bahrain from 24 - 25 July 2024 to explore possibilities of further expanding trade and investment relations between the two countries in this important sector.

2. The Embassy of India, Bahrain in collaboration with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) and the Bahrain India Society organised a B2B meeting on 25th July in the premises of BCCI. Over 100 Bahraini businessmen attended the B2B meeting. The inaugural session of the B2B meetings was addressed by H.E. Mr. Sameer Abdulla Nass, Chairman of BCCI, H.E. Mr. Abdulnabi Alshoala, founding Chairman of Bahrain India Society, and H.E. Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

3. Ambassador Vinod K. Jacob said that Indian exports to Bahrain in 2023 to 24 was approximately USD 900 million and we imported goods worth USD 829 million, representing a near balanced trade of USD 1.73 billion. Food and agro sector have been prominent areas of bilateral trade. Last year, India exported rice worth USD 67.68 million and frozen boneless meat of bovine animals worth USD 22 million. This is in keeping with India's global profile as can be seen from India's exports of agri products worth USD 48.76 billion in 2023-24 to the world.

4. The APEDA organized a tasting campaign of Biryani made of Indian Basmati Rice and promotion of Indian products at Al Jazira and Lulu hypermarkets. Additionally, the delegation held meetings with the Public Health Directorate for Food Safety and the Ministry of Municipalities and Agriculture of Bahrain.

5. India, traditionally, is a major supplier of rice, meat, sugar, spices, fruits and vegetable to Bahrain. However, in recent times, Indian processed food products, organic and healthy food items & dairy products are also getting popular in Bahrain due to their high quality and reasonable pricing. The Government of India has identified large number of labs nationwide to offer testing services for a variety of products to exporters to ensure smooth quality certification. Government of India has authorized the Quality Council of India (QCI) for establishing the “India Conformity Assessment Scheme (i-CAS) for Halal products. APEDA is designated as the overall monitoring agency for this purpose.

6. The visit of this delegation is expected to open up new avenues for collaboration and growth in the trade and investment relations between India and Bahrain.









