

India plans sugar exports to China

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New Delhi, June 1 (UNI) India is seeking to tap the Chinese sugar market, exporting more than one million tonnes of the sweetener this year.

China is a major consumer and importer of sugar. It imports around 14 million tonnes every year.

India has emerged as major producer and exporter of the commodity, and is looking to enter new markets, as there has been a glut in sugar production during the current 2017-18 season (September-October).

Production is expected to touch a record high of 30 million tonnes and the surplus this year is likely to be around 7 million tonnes.

According to India's Ambassador to China Gautam Bambawale, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping at their April "informal summit" in Wuhan had discussed sugar exports from India to China.

To facilitate greater engagement between the two countries in the sector, the Indian Embassy in Beijing on Friday organised a seminar on promoting exports of Indian sugar to China. Some 25 Chinese companies representing China's major stakeholders in China's sugar industry like important sugar refiners, importers and traders participated in this workshop.

The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), China Sugar Association (CSA) and COFCO Sugar also participated in this workshop.

Prashant S. Lokhande, economic and commercial counsellor at the Indian embassy, elaborated on growing economic and commercial engagements between the two countries and assured the Chinese companies that India would emerge as a major sugar-trading partner for China with consistent policies and quality product.

From India, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) president Gaurav Goel, ISMA Director General, Abinash Verma, and CEO of Indian Sugar Exim Corporation (ISEC) Adhir Jha presented a strong case for exporting Indian sugar to China, said an embassy release.

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