

## Agri-imports

8.45 The import of agricultural products, which increased by 27 per cent in 2003-04, showed signs of softening in 2004-05, with the agri-imports declining by 8 per cent during the first half of 2004-05 from US\$1,949 million in the corresponding period of 2003-04 (Table 8.24). The import of edible oils, which is the most dominant item of agri-imports, accounting for almost two-third of the total agri-imports in recent years, registered a sharp increase of nearly 40 per cent in 2003-04, following low production of oilseeds in 2002-03 at 15.1 million tonnes. This was mainly responsible for the large increase in the volume of agri-imports in 2003-04. With the record production

of oilseeds in 2003-04 at 25.1 million tonnes, the import of edible oils declined during the first half of 2004-05 by 15.2 per cent from US\$1,457 million during the corresponding period of 2003-04, which mainly contributed to the decline in the agri-imports during the first half of 2004-05. Despite the increase in the volume of agri-imports in 2003-04 by 27 per cent over 2002-03, the share of agri-import in the total merchandise imports remained unchanged at 4.6 per cent. The share of agri-imports to total merchandise imports declined to 3.7 per cent in the first half of 2004-05 from 5.6 per cent in the corresponding period of 2003-04.

**Table 8.24 : Agricultural imports**

	2002-03		2003-04		2003-04 (Apr.-Sept.)		2004-05 (Apr.-Sept.)	
	Million US dollar	Percent share of agri- imports	Million US dollar	Percent share of agri- imports	Million US dollar	Percent share of agri- imports	Million US dollar	Percent share of agri- imports
Cereals	24.5	0.9	19.4	0.5	8.8	0.5	12.4	0.7
Pulses	565.6	20.2	497.2	13.9	254.3	13.0	181.8	10.2
Milk & cream	2.0	0.1	19.5	0.5	1.36	0.1	1.48	0.1
Cashew nuts	255.4	9.1	298.5	8.4	158.99	8.2	226.74	12.7
Fruits & nuts excluding cashew nuts	132.6	4.7	174.6	4.9	67.73	3.5	71.27	4.0
Sugar	6.8	0.2	13.6	0.4	0.17	0.0	56.12	3.1
Oilseeds	2.4	0.1	3.0	0.1	0.81	0.0	2.58	0.1
Vegetable oils fixed (edible)	1814.2	64.7	2542.5	71.3	1456.8	74.7	1235.6	69.1
Agricultural imports	2803.4	100.0	3568.3	100.0	1948.96	100.0	1787.99	100.0
Total imports	61412.1		78149.1		34777.0		47755.9	
Agri-imports as per cent of total imports		4.6		4.6		5.6		3.7

Source : Ministry of Industry & commerce.