

EU lifts three-year ban on Indian vegetable imports

The European Union has lifted its three-year ban on the import of some vegetables from India, an Agriculture Ministry official said in Kochi today. The vegetables now allowed for import include bitter gourd, snake gourd and aubergines, said a Cochin International Airport Limited release, quoting R S Arora, Assistant Director of the Agriculture Ministry's export/import section.

The ban was put into place in May 2014 in fear of the spread of harmful organisms and to protect the bio-security of EU members. The European Commission decided to order a ban on the import of mangoes, bitter gourd, egg plant, snake gourd and taro leaves from India. The decision had led to an adverse impact on farmers and exporters in India.

The European Commission, after conducting field surveys and audits, in its meeting in Brussels in January last year had decided to lift the ban on the import of mangoes from India.

Earlier, the Union government had said it was taking all diplomatic steps to help get the European Union ban on some Indian vegetables lifted.

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