The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

Rating Report

Jhulay Lal Parboiled Rice Mill

Report Contents

Rating History					
Dissemination Date	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Outlook	Action	Rating Watch
13-Oct-2023	BBB	A2	Stable	Maintain	-
14-Oct-2022	BBB	A2	Stable	Maintain	-
14-Oct-2021	BBB	A2	Positive	Maintain	-
19-Apr-2021	BBB	A2	Stable	Maintain	-
08-May-2020	BBB	A2	Stable	Maintain	-
13-Nov-2019	BBB	A2	Stable	Maintain	-
20-Aug-2019	BBB	A2	Stable	Maintain	-
18-Feb-2019	BBB	A2	Stable	Initial	-

Rating Rationale and Key Rating Drivers

Rice is among the five major crops of Pakistan and is the second main staple food, after wheat. The segment contributes about 3.5% in agriculture value addition and 0.7% to GDP. Local consumption includes ~95% of basmati rice and ~5% non-basmati. During FY23, rice crop area decreased to ~3.2mln Hec (FY22: ~3.4mln Hec), reflecting a decrease of ~6%. Rice production decreased by ~17%, standing at ~7.4mln MT in FY23 (FY22: ~8.9mln MT). Floods during Aug-22 razed rice crops, causing an average crop loss of ~20-25%. New higher-yielding hybrid rice varieties, and improved agronomic practices are factors minimizing the production loss. Around ~4mln MT of rice is consumed locally, while, the remaining is exported. During FY23, Pakistan exports decreased to ~USD 2.1bln (FY22: ~USD 2.5bln). Thus, impacting the industry's overall topline. However, rupee depreciation provided some cushion to the export players. Industry's overall margins and cashflows may become stretched. Industry poses a developing outlook for the ongoing year.
The ratings reflect Jhulay Lal's ('the business') prominent position in the rice export market with a sustainable business volume. During FY23, Jhulay faced a significant drop in its topline (FY23: 5,804mln, FY22: 11,882mln) due to the unavailability of crops caused by the floods, which impacted crop production and led to higher crop prices. Conversely, entities' margins witnessed significant improvement (GP margin, FY23: ~14.2%, FY22: ~7.8%), primarily attributed to the surge in international rice prices amplified by gain on exchange rates. Resultantly, the net profit remained consistent overall. At Jun'23, the company is moderately leveraged at ~47% (FY22: ~53%), debt mainly comprised of short-term borrowing for working capital management. Jhulay strategizes on adopting a topline-centric approach mainly targeting the African region to explore growth avenues. The business has built expertise in international trade by virtue of his business in Hong Kong. The ratings derive comfort from the progress in financial performance as indicated in adequate margins over the periods. Sponsor's invested efforts are reflected in the development of a corporate culture through enhanced business practices & clarity on the succession to the next generation. Sponsor's other ventures have also witnessed improved performance over the years, providing comfort to the ratings.

The ratings are dependent upon sustenance of business volumes under the current challenging environment. As global economy undergoes distress, business sustainability emerges as the key challenge for the Exporters. Meanwhile, keeping up with a stable financial risk profile, particularly debt servicing capacity, is imperative.

Disclosure	
Name of Rated Entity	Jhulay Lal Parboiled Rice Mill
Type of Relationship	Solicited
Purpose of the Rating	Entity Rating
Applicable Criteria	Methodology | Corporate Rating(Jul-23),Methodology | Correlation Between Long-term & Short-term Rating Scales(Jul-23),Methodology | Rating Modifiers(Apr-23)
Related Research	Sector Study | Rice(Oct-22)
Rating Analysts	Muhammad Zain Ayaz | zain.ayaz@pacra.com | +92-42-35869504

Profile

Legal Structure Jhulay Lal Parboiled Rice Mills (Jhulay Lal or 'the business') is a partnership firm established in 2011.

Background Mr. Gurmukh Das, one of the two sponsors of Jhulay Lal, served as the AVP of Faysal bank. He resigned from the job and entered into a partnership business with his brother, Mr. Ramesh Kumar, later in 2010. The business was formerly operated by their father Mr. Megho Mal.

Operations The primary business of Jhulay Lal is the processing and sale of rice. Jhulay Lal has two facilities of husking, polishing and processing of rice paddy. One facility is in Golarchi, Badin, which is a paddy processing plant and the second is in Port Qasim Karachi which has a facility to process both paddy and processed rice

Ownership

Ownership Structure Mr. Gurmukh Das and Mr. Ramesh Kumar are the two owners of Jhulay Lal having an equal stake in the business.

Stability There is no change in the ownership structure of Jhulay Lal since its inception. The ownership structure is expected to remain stable for a foreseeable period.

Business Acumen Both Mr. Gurmukh Das and Mr. Ramesh Kumar are experienced professionals of the industry. Mr. Gurmukh has developed a strong understanding of the export market as they have a presence in ~11 countries whereas Mr. Ramesh Kumar is responsible for looking into the matters pertaining to Jhulay Lal's plant site and the management.

Financial Strength Owners of Jhulay Lal also own CNG stations, agricultural land and property in different cities. The other investment ventures are producing good cash flow streams for the sponsors. Owner's ability and willingness to support the business in the time of need is considered adequate.

Governance

Board Structure As a partnership firm, Jhulay Lal does not have a formal governance structure. The absence of formal governance framework poses a significant risk to sustainability and reflects a lack of independent oversight.

Members' Profile The owners of the business are experienced professionals and have been involved in the same business for decades.

Board Effectiveness Jhulay Lal does not have any board committees. The establishment of the Board committees is essential for the improvement of the overall governance structure

Financial Transparency Jhulay Lal's external auditors are Hussain Lakhani & Co. Chartered Accountants. Neither does the Audit firm satisfy the QCR ratings nor it has a listing in the State Bank of Pakistan's Panel of Auditors. For the year ending Jun'23, the audit is still in progress.

Management

Organizational Structure Jhulay Lal has a lean and limited organizational structure. Sponsors of the business are actively involved in the management of the business. Mr. Megho Mal is also actively engaged in the business separately at the plant, he does not hold any formal position in the organogram though.

Management Team Both directors are assisted by Mr. Fakhrudin Majal and Mr. Shakeel Ahmed who are designated as Head of Accounts and Head of Exports respectively.

Effectiveness Currently, Jhulay Lal does not have any formal management committees. All pertinent issues are resolved by the partners themselves.

MIS Jhulay Lal uses internally generated software as its main software for the preparation of financial accounts.

Control Environment The business does not has an internal audit function

Business Risk

Industry Dynamics Rice is among the five major crops of Pakistan and is the second main staple food, after wheat. The segment contributes about 3.5% in agriculture value addition and 0.7% to GDP. Local consumption includes ~95% of basmati rice and ~5% non-basmati. During FY23, rice crop area decreased to ~3.2mln Hec (FY22: ~3.4mln Hec), reflecting a decrease of ~6%. Rice production decreased by ~17%, standing at ~7.4mln MT in FY23 (FY22: ~8.9mln MT). Floods during Aug-22 razed rice crops, causing an average crop loss of ~20-25%. New higher-yielding hybrid rice varieties, and improved agronomic practices are factors minimizing the production loss. Around ~4mln MT of rice is consumed locally, while, the remaining is exported. During FY23, Pakistan exports decreased to ~USD 2.1bln (FY22: ~USD 2.5bln). Thus, impacting the industry's overall topline. However, rupee depreciation provided some cushion to the export players. Industry's overall margins and cashflows may become stretched. Industry poses a developing outlook for the ongoing year.

Relative Position The business has a strong presence in the country's rice market. The business is committed to improving its foothold in foreign countries.

Revenues Jhulay Lal sales mix comprises ~80% of IRRI-6 non-basmati rice and ~20% basmati rice. During FY23, Jhulay Lal's revenue clocked in at ~PKR 5,804mln (FY22: ~PKR 11,882mln). the temporary dip has been observed due to the unavailability of crops caused by the floods, which impacted crop production and led to higher crop prices.

Margins Jhulay Lal's gross margin rises to ~14.2% (FY22: ~7.8%) on the back of lower cost of goods sold. Despite a slight increase in administrative expenses, the operating margin improved clocked at around~12.7% (FY22: ~7%), Net margin improved to ~8% (FY22: ~4%). Primarily attributed to the surge in international rice prices amplified by gain on exchange rates. Resultantly, the net profit remained consistent overall. Jhulay Lal posted net profit of ~PKR 463mln in FY23 (FY22: ~PKR 467mln).

Sustainability Jhulay Lal is dedicated to enhancing its distribution network in the African market, where it currently operates in around 11 countries. The company has also established a distinct distribution entity named Monarda in Hong Kong. In addition to this, Jhulay Lal intends to increase its revenue by exporting by-products that have been transformed into value-added products. The company is also interested in trading maize to Asian nations.

Financial Risk

Working Capital Jhulay Lal's working capital requirement emanates from financing inventories and trade receivables for which Jhulay Lal relies on both internal cashflows as well as short term borrowings, particularly Export Refinancing Facility (ERF). During FY23, the net working capital days of the business declined significantly to ~285 days (FY22: 168 days) on the back of magnified receivable cycle (FY23: 169 days, FY22: 113 days). Meanwhile, Jhulay Lal had a short term trade leverage of ~10.2% (FY22: ~26.2%), showing ample room to borrow against working capital.

Coverages During FY23, the FCFO of the business improved to ~PKR 940mln (FY22: ~PKR 840mln) due to higher non-cash expenses. Finance cost rose to PKR 440mln, (FY22: PKR 290mln) from higher borrowings. Resultantly, the interest coverage and core coverage deteriorate to 2.1x (FY21: 2.9x) and 2.1x (FY20: 2.9x), respectively. the increase finance cost causes coverages to disimprove.

Capitalization Jhulay Lal has a leveraged capital structure. Leverage stood at 46.6% for FY23 (FY22: 52.8%). Short term borrowings make up ~100% (FY22: ~100%) of the total borrowings. Borrowings of the business have been availed at the SBP's concessionary rates.

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Financial Summary
PKR mln

Jhulay Lal Parboiled Rice Mill	Jun-23	Jun-22	Dec-21	Jun-21
Rice	12M	12M	6M	12M
A BALANCE SHEET				
1 Non-Current Assets	1,595	963	842	843
2 Investments	-	-	-	-
3 Related Party Exposure	-	-	-	-
4 Current Assets	5,671	6,529	7,113	6,322
a Inventories	*1,998*	*1,679*	*2,958*	*1,907*
b Trade Receivables	*1,757*	*3,633*	*3,238*	*3,715*
5 Total Assets	7,266	7,492	7,955	7,165
6 Current Liabilities	114	145	291	126
a Trade Payables	*9*	*41*	*200*	*49*
7 Borrowings	3,335	3,878	4,442	3,963
8 Related Party Exposure	-	-	-	-
9 Non-Current Liabilities	-	-	-	-
10 Net Assets	3,817	3,470	3,222	3,077
11 Shareholders' Equity	3,817	3,470	3,222	3,077
B INCOME STATEMENT				
1 Sales	5,804	11,882	5,338	5,719
a Cost of Good Sold	*(4,981)*	*(10,950)*	*(4,817)*	*(5,243)*
2 Gross Profit	823	931	520	476
a Operating Expenses	(86)	(113)	(279)	(75)
3 Operating Profit	736	819	241	401
a Non Operating Income or (Expense)	*229*	*36*	*96*	*17*
4 Profit or (Loss) before Interest and Tax	965	854	338	418
a Total Finance Cost	*(449)*	*(290)*	*(150)*	*(219)*
b Taxation	*(53)*	*(97)*	*(30)*	*(21)*
6 Net Income Or (Loss)	463	467	158	177
C CASH FLOW STATEMENT				
a Free Cash Flows from Operations (FCFO)	*940*	*840*	*188*	*473*
b Net Cash from Operating Activities before Working Capital	*500*	*550*	*188*	*254*
c Changes in Working Capital	*(1,906)*	*47*	*-*	*215*
1 Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	(1,407)	598	188	468
2 Net Cash (Used in) or Available From Investing Activities	-	(203)	-	(380)
3 Net Cash (Used in) or Available From Financing Activities	-	(160)	-	67
4 Net Cash generated or (Used) during the period	(1,407)	235	188	155
D RATIO ANALYSIS				
1 Performance				
a Sales Growth (for the period)	-51.2%	107.8%	86.7%	-22.7%
b Gross Profit Margin	14.2%	7.8%	9.7%	8.3%
c Net Profit Margin	8.0%	3.9%	3.0%	3.1%
d Cash Conversion Efficiency (FCFO adjusted for Working C	-16.7%	7.5%	3.5%	12.0%
*e Return on Equity [Net Profit Margin * Asset Turnover * (T*	12.7%	14.3%	10.0%	6.2%
2 Working Capital Management				
a Gross Working Capital (Average Days)	285	168	202	350
b Net Working Capital (Average Days)	284	167	198	348
c Current Ratio (Current Assets / Current Liabilities)	49.9	44.9	24.4	50.3
3 Coverages				
a EBITDA / Finance Cost	2.2	3.2	1.2	2.3
b FCFO / Finance Cost+CMLTB+Excess STB	2.1	2.9	1.2	2.2
c Debt Payback (Total Borrowings+Excess STB) / (FCFO-Fi	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4 Capital Structure				
a Total Borrowings / (Total Borrowings+Shareholders' Equity	46.6%	52.8%	58.0%	56.3%
b Interest or Markup Payable (Days)	77.0	79.8	63.7	70.5
c Entity Average Borrowing Rate	12.4%	7.1%	7.6%	5.8%

Credit Rating

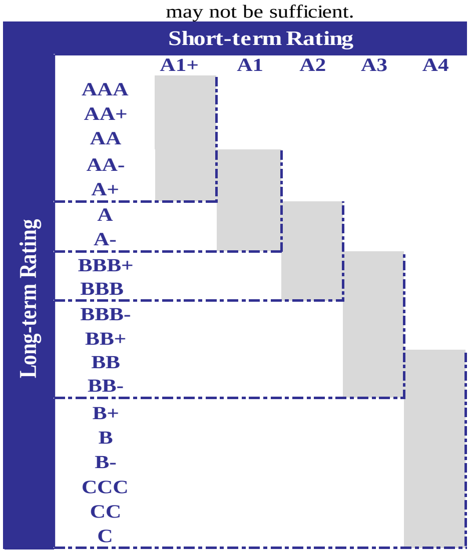
Credit rating reflects forward-looking opinion on credit worthiness of underlying entity or instrument; more specifically it covers relative ability to honor financial obligations. The primary factor being captured on the rating scale is relative likelihood of default.

Long-term Rating

Scale	Definition
AAA	**Highest credit quality.** Lowest expectation of credit risk. Indicate exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments
AA+ AA AA-	**Very high credit quality.** Very low expectation of credit risk. Indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
A+ A A-	**High credit quality.** Low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions.
BBB+ BBB BBB-	**Good credit quality.** Currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.
BB+ BB BB-	**Moderate risk.** Possibility of credit risk developing. There is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as a result of adverse economic or business changes over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.
B+ B B-	**High credit risk.** A limited margin of safety remains against credit risk. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.
CCC CC C	**Very high credit risk.** Substantial credit risk "CCC" Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. "CC" Rating indicates that default of some kind appears probable. "C" Ratings signal imminent default.
D	Obligations are currently in default.

Short-term Rating

Scale	Definition
A1+	The highest capacity for timely repayment.
A1	A strong capacity for timely repayment.
A2	A satisfactory capacity for timely repayment. This may be susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
A3	An adequate capacity for timely repayment. Such capacity is susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial
A4	The capacity for timely repayment is more susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions. Liquidity may not be sufficient.



**The correlation shown is indicative and, in certain cases, may not hold.*

Outlook (Stable, Positive, Negative, Developing) Indicates the potential and direction of a rating over the intermediate term in response to trends in economic and/or fundamental business/financial conditions. It is not necessarily a precursor to a rating change. 'Stable' outlook means a rating is not likely to change. 'Positive' means it may be raised. 'Negative' means it may be lowered. Where the trends have conflicting elements, the outlook may be described as 'Developing'.

Rating Watch Alerts to the possibility of a rating change subsequent to, or, in anticipation of some material identifiable event with indeterminable rating implications. But it does not mean that a rating change is inevitable. A watch should be resolved within foreseeable future, but may continue if underlying circumstances are not settled. Rating watch may accompany rating outlook of the respective opinion.

Suspension It is not possible to update an opinion due to lack of requisite information. Opinion should be resumed in foreseeable future. However, if this does not happen within six (6) months, the rating should be considered withdrawn.

Withdrawn A rating is withdrawn on a) termination of rating mandate, b) the debt instrument is redeemed, c) the rating remains suspended for six months, d) the entity/issuer defaults., or/and e) PACRA finds it impractical to surveill the opinion due to lack of requisite information.

Harmonization A change in rating due to revision in applicable methodology or underlying scale.

Surveillance. Surveillance on a publicly disseminated rating opinion is carried out on an ongoing basis till it is formally suspended or withdrawn. A comprehensive surveillance of rating opinion is carried out at least once every six months. However, a rating opinion may be reviewed in the intervening period if it is necessitated by any material happening.

Note. This scale is applicable to the following methodology(s):

a) Broker Entity Rating
b) Corporate Rating
c) Debt Instrument Rating
d) Financial Institution Rating
e) Holding Company Rating
f) Independent Power Producer Rating
g) Microfinance Institution Rating
h) Non-Banking Finance Companies Rating

Regulatory and Supplementary Disclosure
(Credit Rating Companies Regulations,2016)

Rating Team Statements
(1) Rating is just an opinion about the creditworthiness of the entity and does not constitute recommendation to buy, hold or sell any security of the entity rated or to buy, hold or sell the security rated, as the case may be | Chapter III; 14-3-(x)

2) **Conflict of Interest**
i. The Rating Team or any of their family members have no interest in this rating | Chapter III; 12-2-(j)
ii. PACRA, the analysts involved in the rating process and members of its rating committee, and their family members, do not have any conflict of interest relating to the rating done by them | Chapter III; 12-2-(e) & (k)
iii. The analyst is not a substantial shareholder of the customer being rated by PACRA [Annexure F; d-(ii)] Explanation: for the purpose of above clause, the term “family members” shall include only those family members who are dependent on the analyst and members of the rating committee

Restrictions
(3) No director, officer or employee of PACRA communicates the information, acquired by him for use for rating purposes, to any other person except where required under law to do so. | Chapter III; 10-(5)
(4) PACRA does not disclose or discuss with outside parties or make improper use of the non-public information which has come to its knowledge during business relationship with the customer | Chapter III; 10-7-(d)
(5) PACRA does not make proposals or recommendations regarding the activities of rated entities that could impact a credit rating of entity subject to rating | Chapter III; 10-7-(k)

Conduct of Business
(6) PACRA fulfills its obligations in a fair, efficient, transparent and ethical manner and renders high standards of services in performing its functions and obligations; | Chapter III; 11-A-(a)
(7) PACRA uses due care in preparation of this Rating Report. Our information has been obtained from sources we consider to be reliable but its accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed. PACRA does not, in every instance, independently verifies or validates information received in the rating process or in preparing this Rating Report | Clause 11-(A)(p).
(8) PACRA prohibits its employees and analysts from soliciting money, gifts or favors from anyone with whom PACRA conducts business | Chapter III; 11-A-(q)
(9) PACRA ensures before commencement of the rating process that an analyst or employee has not had a recent employment or other significant business or personal relationship with the rated entity that may cause or may be perceived as causing a conflict of interest; | Chapter III; 11-A-(r)
(10) PACRA maintains principal of integrity in seeking rating business | Chapter III; 11-A-(u)
(11) PACRA promptly investigates, in the event of a misconduct or a breach of the policies, procedures and controls, and takes appropriate steps to rectify any weaknesses to prevent any recurrence along with suitable punitive action against the responsible employee(s) | Chapter III; 11-B-(m)

Independence & Conflict of interest
(12) PACRA receives compensation from the entity being rated or any third party for the rating services it offers. The receipt of this compensation has no influence on PACRA´s opinions or other analytical processes. In all instances, PACRA is committed to preserving the objectivity, integrity and independence of its ratings. Our relationship is governed by two distinct mandates i) rating mandate - signed with the entity being rated or issuer of the debt instrument, and fee mandate - signed with the payer, which can be different from the entity
(13) PACRA does not provide consultancy/advisory services or other services to any of its customers or to any of its customers’ associated companies and associated undertakings that is being rated or has been rated by it during the preceding three years unless it has adequate mechanism in place ensuring that provision of such services does not lead to a conflict of interest situation with its rating activities; | Chapter III; 12-2-(d)
(14) PACRA discloses that no shareholder directly or indirectly holding 10% or more of the share capital of PACRA also holds directly or indirectly 10% or more of the share capital of the entity which is subject to rating or the entity which issued the instrument subject to rating by PACRA; | Reference Chapter III; 12-2-(f)
(15) PACRA ensures that the rating assigned to an entity or instrument is not be affected by the existence of a business relationship between PACRA and the entity or any other party, or the non-existence of such a relationship | Chapter III; 12-2-(i)
(16) PACRA ensures that the analysts or any of their family members shall not buy or sell or engage in any transaction in any security which falls in the analyst’s area of primary analytical responsibility. This clause shall, however, not be applicable on investment in securities through collective investment schemes. | Chapter III; 12-2-(l)
(17) PACRA has established policies and procedure governing investments and trading in securities by its employees and for monitoring the same to prevent insider trading, market manipulation or any other market abuse | Chapter III; 11-B-(g)

Monitoring and review
(18) PACRA monitors all the outstanding ratings continuously and any potential change therein due to any event associated with the issuer, the security arrangement, the industry etc., is disseminated to the market, immediately and in effective manner, after appropriate consultation with the entity/issuer; | Chapter III | 18-(a)
(19) PACRA reviews all the outstanding ratings on semi-annual basis or as and when required by any creditor or upon the occurrence of such an event which requires to do so; | Chapter III | 18-(b)
(20) PACRA initiates immediate review of the outstanding rating upon becoming aware of any information that may reasonably be expected to result in downgrading of the rating; | Chapter III | 18-(c)
(21) PACRA engages with the issuer and the debt securities trustee, to remain updated on all information pertaining to the rating of the entity/instrument; | Chapter III | 18-(d)
Probability of Default
(22) PACRA´s Rating Scale reflects the expectation of credit risk. The highest rating has the lowest relative likelihood of default (i.e, probability). PACRA´s transition studies capture the historical performance behavior of a specific rating notch. Transition behavior of the assigned rating can be obtained from PACRA´s Transition Study available at our website. (www.pacra.com). However, actual transition of rating may not follow the pattern observed in the past | Chapter III | 14-(f-VII)
Proprietary Information