



Vol.3
Issue- 6
June 2017

Agricultural Production and Market Outlook

The Rising Agriculture....

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e-Krishi Samvad, an online interface



e-कृषि संवाद
ICAR-Public Interface

Direct and effective solutions to
the problems faced by farmers



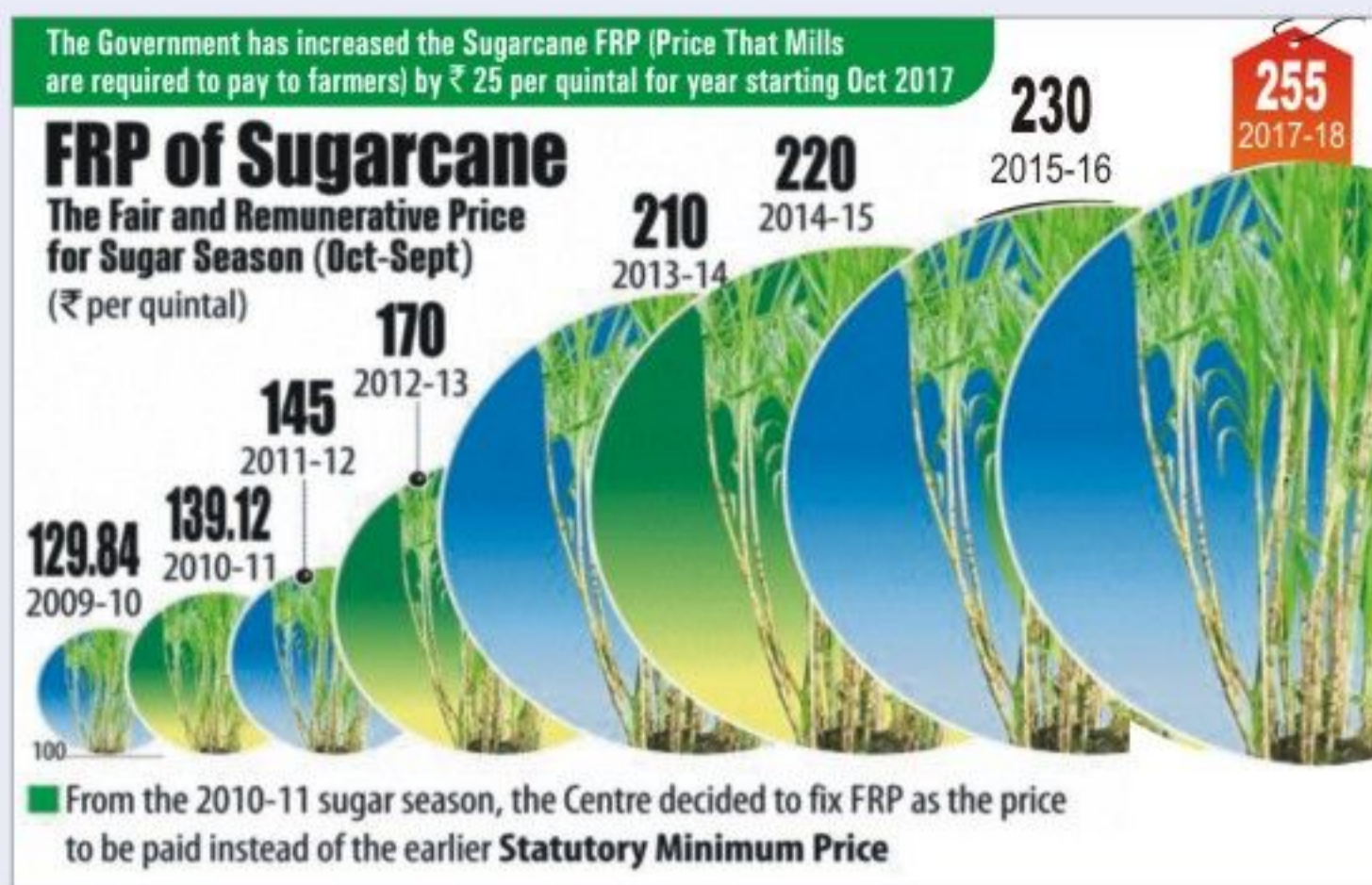
Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, launched e-Krishi Samvad, an online interface. The e-Krishi Samvad is internet-based interface and is a unique platform that will provide direct and effective solutions to the problems faced by farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

Union Agriculture Minister said that people can directly connect to the ICAR website <http://icar.org.in> and get the appropriate solutions from the subject matter specialists and institutes through web or SMS. Stakeholders can upload photographs related to diseases of the crops, animals or fishes for diagnostics and remedial measures instantly from the specialists.

Those who have internet facility on the mobile phone can also avail this facility. e-Krishi Samvad is useful to get information pertaining to welfare and development of agricultural stakeholders.



Government hikes sugarcane FRP by Rs 25 per quintal for 2017-18



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has agreed to fix the fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane at Rs 255 per quintal for the new sugar season (October-September). This marks a Rs 25 per quintal increase compared to the previous year.

This 11% rise in FRP has taken place after two years. Last year, the government had kept prices unchanged at Rs 230 per quintal. In 2009-10, FRP was about Rs 130 per quintal. The latest revision is the seventh increase since 2010-11, marking a 96% increase. Meanwhile, industry association body, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), said sugar prices in wholesale and retail are likely to correct with the latest development as demand for sugar by the industry was less.

FRP is fixed by the central government keeping in view the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). It is the minimum assured price that farmers get. Some state governments declare State Advisory Price (SAP) which is above the FRP to protect farmers' interest.

Agriculture Ministry proposes hike in tur dal import duty



Ahead of summer sowing, the Agriculture Ministry has proposed further hike in the import duty of tur dal (pigeon pea) from 10 per cent to 20 per cent in a bid to curb overseas purchase, arrest steep fall in wholesale prices and keep farmers' morale high.

"The current import duty is not having any impact on the domestic rates, which are continuing to rule below the MSP. We have written to the finance ministry to raise the duty to at least 20 per cent to restrict shipments," a senior government official told PTI. Sending right price signal to farmers is important ahead of the 2017-18 summer (kharif) planting season to begin from July, as it would boost their morale and keep them motivated to grow pulses, which are mostly grown with rainfed conditions in marginal to sub-marginal lands, the official said.

On March 28, the import duty was slapped on tur dal as its wholesale price had slipped below the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 5,050 per quintal fixed for this crop year 2016-17 ending next month.

Prices are still under pressure in view of a bumper crop of about 4.23 million tonnes been harvested this year as against 2.56 million tonnes in 2015-16.

The ministry is concerned that the trend of falling prices would affect the farmers' sentiments towards the tur planting during the 2017-18. kharif (summer) season even as it has planned a detailed strategy to further scale up the output to a new record.

India is the world's largest pulses producer. Tur dal contributes 15 per cent of the total 22 million tonnes of pulses output.

Uttar Pradesh farmers earn additional Rs 5568 crore in 2016-17



Uttar Pradesh sugarcane farmers earned an additional Rs 5,568 crore in 2016-17 thanks to rapid adoption of a new sugarcane variety, which increased the average yield by 8.7% to 723.76 quintal per hectare.

In this year, state has produced 87.50 lakh tonne of sugar, which is highest in the country for the first time. With rise in per hectare productivity, not only sugarcane crushing had increased by 1825 lakh quintal relative to last year but also income of sugarcane farmers of the state has increased by Rs 5568.32 crore,"

This year growth in average yield had been registered both in case of Plant and Pedi sugarcane. Compared to last year, growth in plants average yield was registered as 62.64 quintal per hectare and in Pedi, 53.16 quintal per hectare.

West Bengal government to soon introduce new fishing method 'cage culture'



Taking a cue from the pisciculture practices in Norway, Thailand, Japan and the Philippines, West Bengal government is all set to introduce a new method of deep-sea pisciculture commonly known as cage culture. As the name suggests, the practice consists of culturing fish inside big floating cages in the middle of the sea.

The project is at present in the pilot stage. Two 4.5 metre diameter cages made out of GI pipes and netlon mesh have been set up 2 km off the coast of Mandarmani at the northern end of the Bay of Bengal. The cages are covered with nets to prevent sea birds from feeding on the fish. They are tied down with buoys to provide stability. Each cage is going to last eight to ten years.

Hatchlings for the pilot project will be released in September, which will grow to the right size – 1 to 1.5 kg – within six months. Mostly, bhakti and pomfret will be reared in these cages as these fishes in high demand and are expensive as well. Such deepsea culture in large numbers will bring down prices of these fishes and make them more affordable.

This will also help to bring down the pressure on the lakes and inland hatcheries. Scientists are also researching the viability of pearl culture in t cages.

3rd Advance Estimates of Production of Major Crops for 2016-17 Release



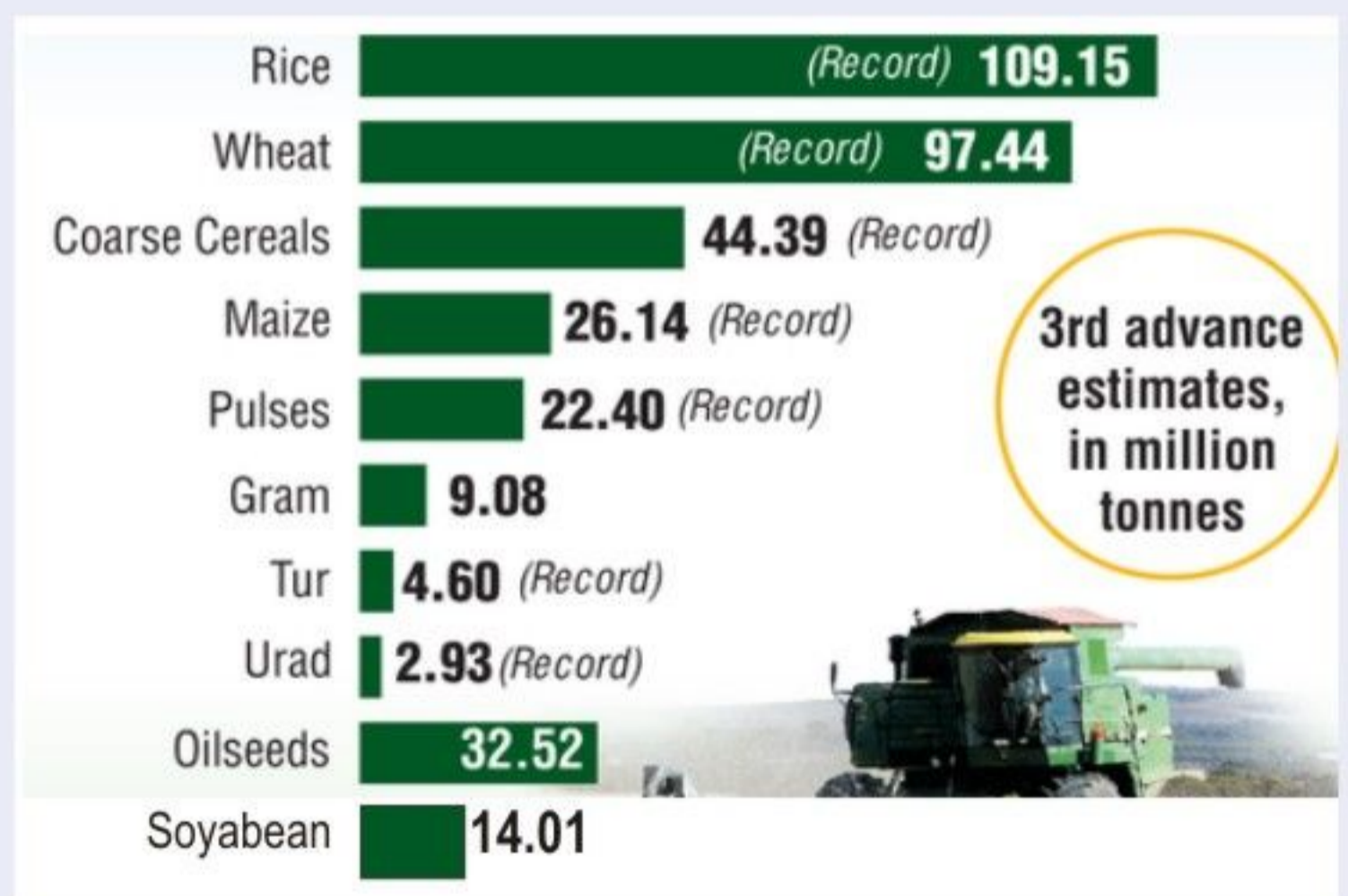
The 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 have been released today by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. The assessment of production of different crops is based on the feedback received from States and validated with information available from other sources. As a result of very good rainfall during monsoon 2016 and various policy initiatives taken by the Government, the country has witnessed record foodgrain production in the current year.

As per 3rd Advance Estimates, the estimated production of major crops during 2016-17 is as under:

- Foodgrains – 273.38 million tonnes (record)
- Rice – 109.15 million tonnes (record)
- Wheat – 97.44 million tonnes (record)
- Coarse Cereals – 44.39 million tonnes (record)

- Maize – 26.14 million tonnes (record)
- Pulses – 22.40 million tonnes (record)
- Gram – 9.08 million tonnes
- Tur – 4.60 million tonnes (record)
- Urad – 2.93 million tonnes (record)
- Oilseeds – 32.52 million tonnes
- Soybean – 14.01 million tonnes
- Groundnut – 7.65 million tonnes
- Castor seed – 1.55 million tonnes
- Cotton – 32.58 million bales (of 170 kg each)
- Sugarcane – 306.03 million tonnes

Production of Jute & Mesta estimated at 10.27 million bales (of 180 kg each) is marginally lower (-2.39%) than their production of 10.52 million bales during the last year.



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To,

DOI : June- 16, 2017

From:

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