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Agricultural Production and **Market Outlook**

The Rising Agriculture....

Cotton acreage to decline 10-12% this kharif season



Sowing area under cotton is likely to decline by 10-12 per cent this year as farmers shift to other remunerative crops such as soybean and paddy to fetch better prices for their produce. The area under cotton is likely to decline to 10.7 million ha this year compared to 12.2 million ha last year as distressed farmers in Punjab, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have evinced weak interest in this cash crop. Farmers' dissatisfaction can be attributed to two major factors. Firstly, cotton was heavily impacted by pink bollworm last year which farmers fear spoil the crop this year as well. Secondly, prices remained subdued throughout last year, prompting farmers to look for the alternative crop. Farmers are facing a spate of issues such as water shortage, unfavorable weather and the persistent menace of pink bollworm which could dent cotton sowing this kharif season by about 10 per cent as against the previous year. Farmers may shift from cotton to groundnut in Gujarat, paddy in Haryana and soybean in Maharashtra and the Telangana belt as cotton is still not remunerative compared to other options. Similarly, soybean, pulses and sugarcane area could surpass cotton in acreage as prices were firm and pest infestation in those crops are less.

“Cotton prices on the Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) are trading at Rs 21,700 for bales of 170 kg each, up 3.23 per cent year-on-year,

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Publisher
Agro-Economic Research Centre
Sardar Patel University
Vallabh Vidyanagar 388120
Anand, Gujarat

Email: director.aerc@gmail.com
Web: www.aercspu.ac.in

well ahead of the kharif season this year. Price outlook remain firm for this year and we can see prices jump 8-10 per cent, as support can be seen on the expectation of lower cotton acre age in India," said Ajay Kedia, Managing Director, Kedia Commodity.

Meanwhile, gains in cotton prices may be capped even as good quality seeds and an improved yield are not making much impact on crop output. The decline in acreage may lower cotton output proportionately. India's cotton output was estimated at 37.7 million bales in the first advanced estimate by the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) under the Ministry of Textiles. With monsoons forecast to be normal this year, Kharif output is expected to be bumper this season.

Milk production to grow at 9 per cent annually by 2022 from 6 per cent now



The annual growth in milk production will increase to 9 per cent by 2022 from the current 6.3 per cent on the back of several initiatives taken by the government to boost the dairy sector, Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said today. Milk output of India, the world's largest producer, stood at 165 million tonnes in 2016-17. "Annual increase in milk production is 6.3 per cent during 2014-18 period while annual increase in milk production during the period 2010-14 was 4 per cent," the minister said at "World Milk Day" function here. Singh said the annual growth of milk production is estimated to rise to 9 per cent by 2022. The country's milk production has increased by 23.69 per cent during 2014-18, he added. "We are at number one position in milk production but our productivity is lower," Singh said, adding that the government was making efforts to increase milk production by raising productivity of milch animals. Singh highlighted that the ministry has sanctioned 20 gokul grams during the last four years under

Rashtriya Gokul Mission and out of this, 3 have been completed and work is under progress at remaining 17 gokul grams. Two National Kamdhenu Breeding Centres -- one in southern India in Andhra Pradesh at Chintaladevi and other in northern India in Madhya Pradesh at Itarsi -- are being established.

The minister further said that the government has recently launched 'Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF)' with a total outlay of Rs 10,881 crore where cooperatives will be provided loans at 6.5 per cent annual interest to be repaid within a period of 10 years. The Centre will provide the interest subsidy. This scheme targets to benefit 95 lakh milk producers through coverage of 50,000 villages. Many skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers would get direct or indirect employment opportunity under the scheme. Under this scheme, additional milk processing capacity of 126 lakh litres per day with 210 tonnes milk drying capacity per day and 140 lakh litres of milk chilling capacity per day will be created by establishment of bulk milk coolers. The programme also has a provision for 28,000 electronic milk adulteration testing equipment and the facilities to convert 60 lakh litre of milk per day into value-added milk products. So far during current year, 10 projects of Rs 1,148 crore have been approved.

Second Advance Estimates (2017-18) of various Horticulture Crops



The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has released the 2017-18(2nd Advance Est.) of Area and Production of Horticulture Crops. These Estimates are based on the information received from different States/UTs in the country.

Following table summaries the All- India Final Estimates: 2016-17 and 2017-18(2nd Advance Estimates):

Total Horticulture	2016-17	2017-18 Second Adv. Est.	% change of 2017-18 (2 nd Adv.Est.) w.r.t.2016-17
Area ('000 Ha)	24851	25406	2.23
Production ('000 Tonnes)	300643	307159	2.17

As per the 2nd Advance Estimates prepared on the basis of information received from State Departments of Horticulture / Agriculture and various agencies like Directorate of Arecanut & Species Development (DASD), Directorate of Cashew & Cocoa Development (DCCD) and National Bee Board (NBB) the total horticulture production of the country is estimates to be 307.2 Million Tonnes during 2017-18 which is 2.2% higher than the previous year and 8.6% higher than the past 5 year's average production. The Production of fruits is estimated to be about 94.4 million tonnes which is about 2% higher than previous year production of vegetables is estimated to be about 182 million tonnes which is about 2.2% higher than previous year. Onion production in the current year is likely to be around 218 lakh Tonnes in 2016-17(Final) which when compared to 5 years average is about 8% higher. Potato production is estimated at 503 Lakh Tonnes as against 486 lakh Tonnes in 2016-17 (Final) which is about 3.5% higher than the previous year. Tomato production in the current year is likely to be around 220 lakh Tonnes as against 207 lakh Tonnes in 2016-17 (Final Est.) which is about 6.6% higher than the previous year.

Cabinet approves continuation of Umbrella Scheme 'Green Revolution — Krishonnati Yojana' in Agriculture Sector



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for the Umbrella Scheme, "Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana" in agriculture sector beyond 12th Five Year Plan for

the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with the Central Share of Rs. 33,269.976 crore.

The Umbrella scheme comprises of 11 Schemes/Missions. These schemes look to develop the agriculture and allied sector in a holistic and scientific manner to increase the income of farmers by enhancing production, productivity and better returns on produce. The Schemes will be continued with an expenditure of Rs.33,269.976 crore for three financial years, i.e., 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

3. The Schemes that are part of the Umbrella Schemes are :-

1) **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)** with a total central share of Rs. 7533.04 crore, MIDH aims to promote holistic growth of horticulture sector; to enhance horticulture production, improve nutritional security and income support to farm Households.

2) **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)**, including National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), with a total central share of Rs.6893.38 crore. It aims to increase production of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops, through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a suitable manner in the identified districts of the country, restoring soil fertility and productivity at the individual farm level and enhancing farm level economy. It further aims to augment the availability of vegetable oils and to reduce the import of edible oils.

3) **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)** with a total central share of Rs.3980.82 crore. NMSA aims at promoting sustainable agriculture practices best suitable to the specific agro-ecology focusing on integrated farming, appropriate soil health management and synergizing resource conservation technology.

4) **Submission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)** with a total central share of Rs.2961.26 crore. SMAE aims to strengthen the ongoing extension mechanism of State Governments, local bodies etc., achieving food and nutritional security and socio-economic empowerment of farmers, to institutionalize programme planning and implementation mechanism, to forge effective linkages and synergy amongst various stake-holders, to support HRD interventions, to promote pervasive and innovative use of electronic / print media, inter-personal communication and ICT tools, etc.

5) **Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP)** with a total central share of Rs.920.6 crore. SMSP aims to increase production of certified / quality seed, to increase SRR, to upgrade the quality of farm saved

seeds, to strengthen the seed multiplication chain, to promote new technologies and methodologies in seed production, processing, testing etc., to strengthen and modernizing infrastructure for seed production, storage, certification and quality etc.

6) Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) with a total central share of Rs.3250 crore. SMAM aims to increase the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low, to promote 'Custom Hiring Centres' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership, to create hubs for hi-tech and high value farm equipment, to create awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities, and to ensure performance testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country.

7) Sub Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPPQ) with a total central share of Rs.1022.67 crore. SMPPQ aims to minimize loss to quality and yield of agricultural crops from the ravages of insect pests, diseases, weeds, nematodes, rodents, etc. and to shield our agricultural bio-security from the incursions and spread of alien species, to facilitate exports of Indian agricultural commodities to global markets, and to promote good agricultural practices, particularly with respect to plant protection strategies and strategies.

8) Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census, Economics and Statistics (ISACES) with a total central share of Rs. 730.58 crore. It aims to undertake the agriculture census, study of the cost of cultivation of principal crops, to undertake research studies on agro-economic problems of the country, to fund conferences/workshops and seminars involving eminent economists, agricultural scientists, experts and to bring out papers to conduct short term studies, to improve agricultural statistics methodology and to create a hierarchical information system on crop condition and crop production from sowing to harvest.

9) Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (ISAC) with a total central share of Rs. 1902.636 crore. It aims to provide financial assistance for improving the economic conditions of cooperatives, remove regional imbalances and to speed up - cooperative development in agricultural marketing, processing, storage, computerization and weaker section programmes; to help cotton growers fetch remunerative price for their produce through value addition besides ensuring supply of quality yarn at reasonable rates to the decentralized weavers.

10) Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) with a total central share of 3863.93 crore. ISAM aims to develop agricultural marketing infrastructure; to promote innovative and latest technologies and competitive alternatives in agriculture marketing infrastructure; to provide infrastructure facilities for grading, standardization and quality certification of agricultural produce; to establish a nationwide marketing information network; to integrate markets through a common online market platform to facilitate pan-India trade in agricultural commodities, etc.

11) National e-Governance Plan (NeGP-A) with a total central share of 211.06 crore aims to bring farmer centricity & service orientation to the programmes; to enhance reach & impact of extension services; to improve access of farmers to information & services throughout crop-cycle; to build upon, enhance & integrate the existing ICT initiatives of Centre and States; and to enhance efficiency & effectiveness of programs through making available timely and relevant information to the farmers for increasing their agriculture productivity.

12) The Schemes/Missions focus on creating/strengthening of infrastructure of production, reducing production cost and marketing of agriculture and allied produce. These schemes / missions have been under implementation for varying duration during past few years.

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To,

From:

Agro-Economic Research Centre

For the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan

(Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)

H.M. Patel Institute of Rural Development,

Opp. Nanadalaya Temple, Post Box No. 24,

Sardar Patel University

Vallabh Vidyanagar 388120, Anand, Gujarat

Ph.No. +91-2692-230106, 230799, Fax- +91-2692-233106

E-mail : director.aerc@gmail.com

Website: www.aercspu.ac.in

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