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Sowing area in Maharashtra increased to 15.7 million ha for Kharif season

In view of predictions for higher-than-average rainfall this year, the Maharashtra government has set higher production targets from the coming Kharif season by increasing the state's sowing area to 1

In view of predictions for higher-than-average rainfall this year, the Maharashtra government has set higher production targets from the coming Kharif season by increasing the state's sowing area to 15.7 million hectares (ha) from last season's 14 million ha. The state had utilised 15.1 million ha for Kharif crops in 2020-21, despite setting the 14 million ha target.

The state is also expecting a record 128.52 million tonnes of production this year from Kharif season, officials said.

The higher targets were set in a meeting chaired by chief minister Uddhav Thackeray (CM) on Thursday to take stock of the preparedness for the Kharif season starting from June.

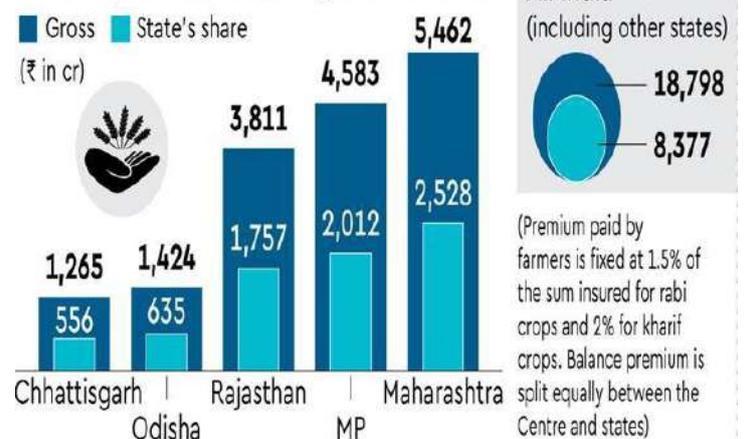
Thackeray also asked officials to encourage farmers to go for 'Vikel Te Pikel (sow crops that are in demand)' model and create their own brand in the market.

The 'Vikel Te Pikel' initiative enables farmers to take up the crop based on the demand of value chains that will guarantee sale of their produce at proper prices. It also will help them in minimising the post-harvest loss of the crops as the produce will be sold out without any delay.

"It is necessary to research the market for agricultural commodities. Increasing crop production alone is not vital, but Maharashtra should also work for producing quality crops and build its brand by adopting modern technology and research methods," Thackeray said in the meeting.

Read More: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/sowing-area-in-maharashtra-increased-to-15-7-million-ha-for-kharif-season-101621538025-502.html>

PMFBY premium during kharif 2020





Govt to bring additional 637,000 hectare under oilseeds in Kharif season

The Centre on Thursday said it has chalked out a multi-pronged strategy to bring in additional 6.37 lakh hectare area under oilseeds in the forthcoming Kharif (summer) season beginning July this year.



That apart, the government has decided to freely distribute high-yielding varieties of oilseeds, especially soybean and groundnut, to farmers in kharif season 2021-22.

Last year, oilseeds were sown in 208.2 lakh hectare during the kharif season and 80 lakh hectare in the Rabi (winter) season.

In a statement, the agriculture ministry said it has adopted a "multi-pronged strategy" to achieve self-sufficiency in oilseeds production.

"Government of India has approved an ambitious plan for free distribution of high-yielding varieties of seeds to the farmers for the 2021 Kharif season in the form of mini-kits," it said. The special Kharif programme will bring an additional 6.37 lakh hectare area under oilseeds and is likely to produce 120.26 lakh quintals of oilseeds and edible oil amounting to 24.36 lakh tonne, it added.

After consultations with state governments, the ministry said a plan has been framed to distribute soybean and groundnut oilseeds for free to farmers under the National Food Security Mission (Oil Seeds and Oil Palm).

Read More: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-to-bring-additional-637-000-hectare-under-oilseeds-in-kharif-season-121052000936_1.html

Maharashtra raises Kharif crop output estimate with increase in sowing area

The state had utilised 151 lakh ha for Kharif crops in 2020-21, despite setting a 140-lakh ha target. The state is also expecting a record 1,285.2 lakh tonne of production this year from Kharif season, officials of the agriculture department said.

The government of Maharashtra has set higher production targets for the coming Kharif season of 2021-22 by increasing the state's sowing area to 157 lakh hectare (ha) from last season's 140 lakh ha, following predictions of a higher-than-average monsoon by the Met Department.

The state had utilised 151 lakh ha for Kharif crops in 2020-21, despite setting a 140-lakh ha target. The state is also expecting a record 1,285.2 lakh tonne of production this year from Kharif season, officials of the agriculture department said.

Read More: <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/maha-raises-kharif-crop-output-estimate-with-increase-in-sowing-area/2258938/>

Karnataka likely to harvest record crop size in Kharif Season

The weather has been favorable in the state of Karnataka for the farmers to reap a good produce in this season. Karnataka Agriculture Minister Mr. B.C. Patil has issued a press statement saying that there are chances of record yield of agricultural produce in this Kharif season. Sowing is already done over three lakh hectares in the state because of good pre monsoon rains. The state government targets a sowing area of 77 lakh hectares.

Agriculture is one of the most essential attribute of Karnataka economy. The topography of Karnataka such as the city's relief, soil, and climate immensely supports the agricultural activities in Karnataka. The Kharif crops in Karnataka comprise millets, paddy (rice), maize, moong (pulses), groundnut, red chilies, cotton, soybean, sugarcane, rice, and turmeric. It is also known as the Autumn harvest as it is cropped around beginning of the first rains in the month of July.

Karnataka is also highly potential for its horticulture production and it ranks second in this aspect in India. Horticulture generates 40 percent of the total income of the state. Karnataka is one of the major price driving markets for Cotton and Maize, and while trading in cotton and maize futures, it is essential to track the demand-supply situation of Karnataka as well.



Read More: <https://krishijagran.com/agriculture-world/karnataka-likely-to-harvest-record-crop-size-in-kharif-season/>

Odisha: 10,644 villages, 75 lakh people affected due to Cyclone 'Yaas', informs official

As many as 10,644 villages across 11 districts of Odisha more than 75 lakh people and 12.77 lakh livestock have been affected due to the Cyclone 'Yaas' while the standing crops on about 6348.4 hectares of land suffered damage, according to a government official.

Read More: <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/odisha-10644-villages-75-lakh-people-affected-due-to-cyclone-yaas-informs-official20210609043106/>



2.21 Lakh Hectare of Crops Damaged in Cyclone Yaas in Bengal, Says Chief Minister

West Bengal Chief Minister said that the state has incurred a total loss of more than Rs 20,000 crore due to Cyclone Yaas “Around 2.21 lakh hectare of crops and 71,560 hectare of horticulture have been damaged in West Bengal by Cyclone Yaas.

Read More: <https://www.news18.com/news/india/2-21-lakh-hectare-of-crops-damaged-in-cyclone-yaas-in-bengal-says-cm-mamata-3796775.html>

Cyclone Yaas: Bihar starts crop loss assessment including sugarcane

The agriculture department of the Bihar government has begun the assessment of the sugarcane and other crops loss due to the cyclone Yaas. The cyclone that hit the coast of Odisha on May 26 caused severe damage to the sugarcane and other crops grown in Bihar.



Read More: <https://www.news18.com/news/india/2-21-lakh-hectare-of-crops-damaged-in-cyclone-yaas-in-bengal-says-cm-mamata-3796775.html>

About 1500 houses, crops on 75 hectare area damaged; 18 injured & 10L impacted by Cyclone Yaas in J'khand

Ranchi, May 28 (PTI) Cyclone Yaas that caused a havoc in Jharkhand with tornadoes, torrential rains and swelling rivers damaged crops on 75 hectares of area and left about 1,500 houses, mostly raw, damaged besides injuries to 18 people, said official.

Read More: <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/about-1500-houses-crops-on-75-hectare-area-damaged-18-injured-10l-impacted-by-cyclone-yaas-in-jkhand/209-1970>

Agriculture did not fall to COVID-19 last year; will there be an encore? India's second wave has affected the Rabi post-harvest marketing season; it could also affect the Kharif season depending on the disease's severity

Agriculture, the only sector to clock a positive growth of 3.4 per cent at constant prices in 2020-21, during the first wave of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), could be severely impacted due to the ongoing second wave. The primary reason is that COVID-19 is running riot in the country's rural hinterland, where most agricultural activity takes place, during the second wave. The second wave has had an impact on the just-concluded Rabi season. It could also impact the upcoming Kharif season, depending on the trajectory of the pandemic, experts said.

Farmers have harvested their Rabi crop. But sales have been impacted as COVID-19 infections have risen and mandis (wholesale markets) have remained closed since April 2021 due to lockdown-like restrictions in many states.

During the first wave, there were some supply chain issues related to the produce's transport from the primary mandis to the secondary and bigger markets. But this time around, there are several concerns about taking the produce even to the primary mandis due to rising COVID-19 cases in rural areas and imposition of lockdowns. Last year, even though the lockdowns were more stringent, primary mandis at village level were largely kept out of the restrictions. This was because the infections were low or nil in rural areas.



In states like Punjab and Haryana, where there is high government procurement, most of the wheat crop has been lifted. But this is not the case in other wheat-producing states like Uttar Pradesh (UP), Madhya Pradesh (MP), and Rajasthan.

Read More: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/agriculture-did-not-fall-to-covid-19-last-year-will-there-be-an-encore--77071>

Yaas dashes harvest hopes of farmers in Kendrapada district

Incessant rain and subsequent floods due to Yaas has severely damaged large tracts of ready-to-harvest green gram, black gram, vegetables, banana, betel and other crops in Kendrapada district's Aul, Rajkanika and Rajkanika blocks.

“I harvested black gram grown over an acre last week, but could not do so over the rest three acres due to non-availability of labourers. Now my crop has been damaged,” Santosh Kar, a farmer of Namatara village, said.

Similarly, the vegetable crops of Bhaskar Jena of Kalaspur village was damaged. He is very troubled as he has to return the bank loan. The cyclone has hit the economy of around 5,000 betel farmers with heavy rains accompanied by high velocity winds badly damaging the vines. “Had there been no cyclone, we would have been busy harvesting betel,” said Nityananda Swain, farmer of Suniti village.

After the natural disaster, now the farmers fear more losses to their crops if rainwater is not flushed out from their land within a week, said Umesh Chandra Singh, a farmer leader and president of Krushak Sabha, district unit.



Every year farmers of these areas face crop loss due to cyclone, flood, less rain and unseasonal rain. “But very little is done to alleviate their problems. Farmers are still trying to assess their losses,” added Singh.

Read More: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/yaas-dashes-harvest-hopes-of-farmers-in-kendrapada-district/articleshow/83197837.cms>

Gujarat government announces Rs 500 crore relief package for agriculture sector

With summer as well as horticulture crops facing damage because of cyclone Tauktae, the state government on Wednesday announced Rs 500-crore relief package for the agriculture sector.

“The survey work will be completed by Thursday and the government will deposit the compensation amount directly into bank accounts of affected farmers within a week,” CM Vijay Rupani said.

Crops over approximately 2 lakh hectares in 86 talukas have been damaged to varying degrees because of the cyclone, the CM said.

In case of horticulture crops, if the crop has been completely damaged and has been uprooted, the compensation will be Rs 1 lakh per hectare with a limit of two hectares, the chief minister said. If the horticulture crops are damaged but still standing, the compensation will be Rs 30,000 per hectare with a limit of two hectares.

For farmers whose summer crops sustained 33% or more damage, compensation will be Rs 20,000 per hectare with a limit of two hectares.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/rs-500cr-relief-package-for-agriculture-sector/articleshow/82987288.cms>

Google.org is helping deploy AI to prevent pests devastating Indian crops : Watch out, pink bollworm: artificial intelligence is coming for you.

In India, 70% of rural households depend on agriculture, of which 80% are smallholder farmers, owning two hectares or less. About 6 million cultivate cotton, a cash crop that’s India’s third-largest agricultural product after rice and wheat. It’s particularly vulnerable to pests: In 2017, half of the entire cotton crop in Maharashtra, the country’s second-most populous state, was destroyed by a particularly ravenous-type pest.



To help farmers prevent those kinds of disasters, and thus increase crop yields and profits, an Indian nonprofit, Wadhvani AI, has teamed up with Google’s philanthropic arm in its first venture in Asia. They’ve worked together to improve the nonprofit’s “AI-powered farm decision support system”: an app that uses artificial intelligence to identify what pests are eating crops and then predict the trajectory of the infestation and get actionable remedy advice from agricultural experts. They hope this will help protect farmers’ livelihoods, and curb the indiscriminate use of pesticides, which can do more harm than good.

Wadhvani AI is a startup whose projects focus on harnessing AI for social good. With this project, it aims to help cotton farmers gain more income stability in a profession that usually provides little.

Read More: <https://www.fastcompany.com/90640843/google-is-helping-deploy-ai-to-prevent-pests-devastating-indian-crops>

India's agricultural output increases by 2.6% in crop year 2020-21



Tentative Targets: 2021-22			
	Kharif 2021	Rabi 2021-22	Total
Crops	Production (millions ton)		
Rice	104.30	16.80	121.10
Wheat	-	110.00	110.00
Jowar	2.20	2.90	5.10
Bajara	10.50	-	10.50
Maize	22.10	8.80	30.90
Ragi	1.90	-	1.90
Small Millets	0.61	-	0.61
Barley	-	2.20	2.20
Total Coarse Cereals	37.31	13.90	51.21
Total Pulses	9.82	15.18	25.00
Total Foodgrains	151.43	155.88	307.31
Total Oilseeds	26.20	11.30	37.50
Cotton-million bales (1bale = 170 Kgs)	37.00	-	37.00
Sugarcane (million ton)	397.00	-	397.00
Jute & Mesta - Million bales (1 bale + 180Kg)	10.60	-	10.60



India's foodgrain production is projected to rise 2.66 percent and touch a record 305.43 million tonne in the current crop year 2020-21, the union ministry of agriculture announced on May 25.

This rise is due to the increased output of rice, wheat, and pulses. The monsoon rains have also been bountiful last year. In the crop year 2019-20, the output of food grains stood at 297.5 million tonne.

Compilation of data shared by various states to the ministry of agriculture reveals that under the food grain category-rice production is 121.46 million tonne in the 2020-21 crop year as against 118.87 million tonne in the previous year.

Wheat touched 108.75 million tonne in 2020-21 from 107.86 million tonne in the previous year and coarse cereals reached 49.66 million tonne, from 47.75 million tonne last year. The Pulses output is projected to touch 25.56 million tonne compared to 23.03 million tonne.

Read More: <https://www.cnbcv18.com/agriculture/indias-agricultural-output-increases-by-26-in-crop-year-2020-21-9442271.htm>

Motor, crop insurance biz declines, health rises 11% : In the motor portfolio, motor third party (TP) premium - which has not been hiked by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) in FY21 - has grown 5 per cent to Rs 10,650 crore.



India's general insurance industry narrowly missed the milestone of Rs 2 lakh crore of gross premium during 2020-21, due to the negative growth in motor insurance - the largest portfolio in the industry - and crop business.

The industry ended financial year 2020-21 with a positive year-on-year (y-o-y) growth of 5 per cent at Rs 1,98,735 crore, aided by growth in health insurance segment. While the health portfolio, propelled by the Covid-19 pandemic, has grown by 11 per cent to Rs 58,584 crore, two large business segments - overall motor portfolio and crop business - of the industry declined during FY21. Premiums in the overall motor portfolio have fallen by around 2 per cent to Rs 67,790 crore, while the crop business has fallen by 3.5 per cent to Rs 31,184 crore during FY 2020-21, according to figures compiled by GI Council and Irdai.

In the motor portfolio, motor third party (TP) premium - which has not been hiked by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) in FY21 - has grown

5 per cent to Rs 10,650 crore.

Motor OD (own damage) segment has surged by 138 per cent to Rs 4,136 crore, while the premium out of motor package has contracted by 7 per cent during the reporting period.

Read More: <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/motor-crop-insurance-biz-declines-health-rises-11-7282251/>

Indian farmers expect to harvest record wheat, rice crops this year



India is expected to produce a record 108.75 million tonnes of wheat this year, the farm ministry said in its third forecast for the crop year to June 2021, marginally lower than its previous estimate of 109.24 million tonnes.

Rice output in the world's biggest exporter and the second largest producer is estimated at a record 121.46 million tonnes compared to a forecast of 120.32 million tonnes in February.

The farm ministry forecast this year's total grains output to be at a record 305.44 million tonnes, up from its previous estimate of 297.5 million tonnes. The efforts of India's farmers, scientists and the government has paid off, said Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.

The government had lowered its oilseed output estimate to 36.57 million tonnes from 37.31 million tonnes forecast in February. Rapeseed production is estimated to be at 9.99 million tonnes this year, down from the previous forecast of 10.43 million tonnes, the farm ministry said. Similarly, soybean output is expected to be at 13.41 million tonnes, lower than the 13.71 million tonnes estimated in February.

The farm ministry pegged peanut production to be at 10.12 million tonnes in 2020/21, lower than its earlier estimate of 10.15 million tonnes. Production of pulse is likely to be at 25.56 million tonnes this year, up from the 24.42 million tonnes estimated earlier.

Sugarcane production is estimated to be around 392.80 million tonnes against 397.66 million tonnes forecast in February, the farm ministry said.

Read More: <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/indian-farmers-expect-harvest-record-wheat-rice-crops-this-year-2021-05-25/>



Early showers, low mercury to buoy Kharif sowing

Summer crops acreage up 21% at 80.46 lakh ha. Good pre-monsoon showers and lower temperatures this month across the country will help retain soil moisture, helping Kharif sowing.

Read More: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/early-showers-low-mercury-to-buoy-kharif-sowing/article34617300.ece>

Kharif outlook: How monsoon is linked to agri, economic development

South-West monsoon accounts for 75% of the country's total rainfall. The Indian monsoon is a keenly watched event across the world. It is an event that is tracked closely, especially by stock and commodity market.

Read More: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/kharif-outlook-how-the-fortunes-of-indias-agriculture-and-economy-are-linked-to-a-good-monsoon/article34695753.ece>

Covid lockdown followed by Cyclone Tauktae makes Belagavi farmers' life difficult

The ongoing lockdown in Karnataka due to Covid-19 followed by Cyclone Tauktae last week gave a two-way blow to the growers in Belagavi. Farmers who grow chillis, carrots, coriander, chocolates, brinjals and ladyfingers have no choice but to feed their cattle's with it or allow their crops to decompose in the soil.

When the farmer questioned on how to sell their ready to reap crops as a lockdown had been enforced and there was no market, Cyclone Tauktae came down and escalated the situation even more. The heavy rainfall that arose from the arrival of Tauktae destroyed the remaining crops in Belagavi. April and May are peak months for farmers to sell their yields because the prices of vegetables typically rise during this time.

However, again this year was ruthless. The market has dried up with exports of vegetable products to other countries standstill because of lock-downs. Then came early rain damaging the cucumbers, corianders and other leafy plants.

Gajanan Koluche, a farmer in Basavan Kudachi village, became frustrated and started uprooting his ready-to-harvest chillis.



Read More: <https://krishijagan.com/agriculture-world/covid-lockdown-followed-by-cyclone-tauktae-makes-belagavi-farmers-life-difficult/>

India's monsoon rains forecast to be 101% of average in 2021

India is likely to receive 101% rainfall of a long-term average this year, the weather office said, upgrading its previous forecast and raising expectations for higher farm output in the country, which is reeling from a second Covid-19 wave.

The monsoon is expected to be well distributed, and most parts of the country are expected to receive an average to an above-average amount of monsoon rains in 2021, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of India meteorological department (IMD), told a news conference.

The IMD defines average, or normal, rainfall as between 96% and 104% of a 50-year average of 88 centimetres for the entire four-month season beginning in June.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indias-monsoon-rains-forecast-to-be-101-of-average-in-2021/articleshow/83139354.cms>

RAISING EXPECTATIONS

Monsoon 2021 probability

Category	Rainfall range	Forecast probability
Deficient	Less than 90% of LPA	14%
Below normal	90-96% of LPA	25%
Normal	96-104% of LPA	40%
Above normal	104-110% of LPA	16%
Excess	More than 110% of LPA	05%

Note: Long Period Average of Southwest Monsoon from 1961-2010 is 88 centimeters

Source: IMD

Agri dept advises against early sowing amid pre-monsoon showers

Pre-monsoon showers have been lashing several places across the state - including the Marathwada region as well as Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara districts - sparking excitement within the farming community. The state agriculture department, however, has advised farmers not to start sowing early. The farmers have been asked to wait till there is at least 100mm rainfall so that there is the desired moisture-level in the soil.

In some parts of western Maharashtra, the pre-monsoon showers were heavy and inundated localities and farms. Karad, Satara, Miraj, Kurundwad and Shirol got a good spell of rain, but the day was dry in Kolhapur city.



The city is expected to get some heavy showers after midnight. The district disaster management has issued advisory to local teams to be on alert at night for heavy downpour and inconvenience to the residents.

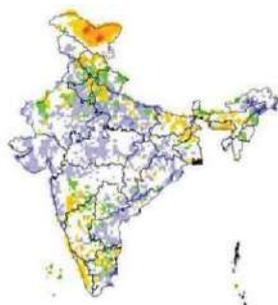
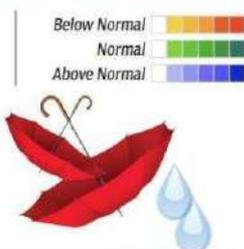
Many places in the Marathwada region, including Aurangabad, too have received the pre-monsoon showers in the 48-hour period ending on Wednesday morning. As per official data, Aurangabad district received 25mm average rainfall between June 1 and 10 am on June 2 (Wednesday), which accounts for for almost 20% of total rainfall for the first month of the rainy season. Among different areas in the city and outskirts, Bhawsingpura reported 127mm rainfall, Osmanpura 31mm and Chikalhana 35mm during this period.

Read More: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/aurangabad/agri-dept-advises-against-early-sowing-amid-pre-monsoon-showers/articleshow/83182573.cms>

IMD'S MONSOON FORECAST

Monsoon rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be **101%** of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of $\pm 4\%$

* The LPA of the season rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1961-2010 is 88 cm



Category	Rainfall Range	*Forecast probability (%)
Deficient	< 90% of LPA	8
Below Normal	90-96% of LPA	18
Normal	96-104% of LPA	40
Above Normal	104-110% of LPA	22
Excess	>110% of LPA	12

Region-wise forecast

Northwest India | Normal
 South Peninsula | Normal
 Northeast India | Below normal
 Central India | Above normal

* Rainfall over the 'monsoon core zone', which consists of most of the rainfed agriculture regions in the country, is most likely to be 'above normal' (>106% of LPA)

Covid second wave poses no threat to India's agri sector: NITI Aayog

Member (Agriculture) Ramesh Chand on Sunday said the second COVID-19 wave will not impact the Indian agriculture sector in anyway as rural areas saw spread of infections in May when agriculture activities remained at bare minimum.

In an interview with PTI, Chand said that India's policies on subsidy, price and technology have remained too much in favour of rice, wheat and sugarcane, and there is need to make the procurement and minimum support price policy favourable to pulses.

"COVID-19 cases started spreading in the rural areas in the month of May, with the beginning of the month of May, and agriculture activity in the month of May is bare minimal, particularly land-based activities," he added.

"...it (May) is a peak summer month and no crop is sown, no crop is harvested except little bit vegetables and some off-season crops," Chand further explained.

Read More: <https://www.livemint.com/economy/covid-wave-ii-poses-no-threat-to-india-s-agri-sector-niti-aayog-11622971985244.html>

Haryana sets 2 lakh acre target for crop diversification

To take care of the declining water table and encourage farmers to move away from the water-guzzling paddy, the Haryana government has set a target to bring two-lakh acres of land under the crop diversification scheme, "Mera Pani Meri Virasat."

Farmers can switch to crops that require less water like maize, pulses (urad dal, arhar dal, Moong, moth, Soyabin, Guar), til, cotton, groundnut, castor, Kharif onion and all Kharif fodder. However, the government dropped Bajra crop from the scheme this season.

Under the scheme, an incentive of Rs 7,000 per acre will be given to farmers for making the switch from paddy.

According to data provided by the agriculture department, of the total 2 lakh acre target set under this scheme, the largest is under cotton (1,10,850 acres), followed by fodder/fallow (43,900 acres), horticulture crops (30,000 acres), maize (11,991 acres), groundnut and til (2,000 acres) and pulses (1,260 acres).

The government has also set district-wise target of diversification. Sirsa district topped the table with 29,010 acres, followed by Jind at 24,910 acres, Fatehabad at 24,255 Hisar at 16,825, Kaithal at 13,115, Bhiwani at 10,535, Sonapat at 10,260, Jhajjar at 9,690, Karnal at 8,200, Charkhi Dadri at 7,680, Ambala at 7,150, Rohtak at 6,440, Kurukshetra at 6,350, Yamunanagar at 6,280, Panipat 5,140, Faridabad 2,955, Panchkula 2,660, Rewari 2,370, Palwal 2,200 Mewat 1,566, Gurgaon 1,410, and Mahendergarh 1,000.

Read More: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/haryana-sets-2-lakh-acre-target-for-crop-diversification/articleshow/83268375.cms>

Crop Sowing to Gather Pace as Monsoon Hits Southern Indian Coast

The southwest monsoon, which waters more than half of India's farmland, reached the mainland two days later than usual, with the sowing of major crops such as rice and soybeans seen gathering momentum in the coming weeks.

The monsoon hit the southern coast on Thursday, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of the India Meteorological Department, told Bloomberg by phone. It will further advance to some more parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu states in the next two days, he said. The monsoon typically arrives in Kerala on June 1.

The June-September rainy season is critical for India's crop output and economic growth at a time when the country is battling the world's worst outbreak of Covid-19. The virus has spread to rural areas, where about 70% of the nation's more than 1.3 billion people live. Agriculture accounts for 18% of its economy.

Read More: <https://www.bloomberquint.com/economy-finance/crop-sowing-to-gather-pace-as-monsoon-hits-southern-indian-coast>



**GWP income underwritten by Non-Life insurers within India (segment wise) :
For FY 2020-21 (provisional & unaudited) (Rs.In Crs.)**

CROP

SL	Insurers	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20	Growth
1	Agriculture Insurance Co	12,112.30	9,361.24	29.4%
2	HDFC Ergo General	2,572.97	2,163.14	18.9%
3	Reliance General	2,556.48	1,780.04	43.6%
4	Bajaj Allianz General	2,556.38	2,481.38	3.0%
5	SBI General	2,277.07	2,215.73	2.8%
6	IFFCO-Tokio General	1,541.29	1,883.26	-18.2%
7	National	1,365.00	2,015.91	-32.3%
8	Universal Sompo General	1,349.90	1,371.02	-1.5%
9	Future Generali India	1,133.77	912.25	24.3%
10	The New India Assurance	1,050.00	2,022.68	-48.1%
11	United India	917.20	1,985.33	-53.8%
12	Bharti AXA General	804.15	828.06	-2.9%
13	The Oriental	793.59	2,040.51	-61.1%
14	Tata AIG General	62.53	421.20	-85.2%
15	Royal Sundaram General	56.91	760.78	-92.5%
16	ICICI Lombard General	32.55	10.71	203.9%
17	Cholamandalam MS General	1.72	19.36	-91.1%
	TOTAL	31,183.81	32,272.60	-3.4%



How Cyclone Yaas Helped Rice Farming

The damaging cyclone Yaas, which brought life to a standstill in several eastern states including West Bengal and Odisha just last month, has also brought cheer to many just ahead of the rice sowing season. While the cyclone damaged many crops, the rice growers are not complaining.



Ram Sakal Mandal, a farmer in Bihar's Madhubani district, said that the residual rains that followed Yaas has helped the soil gather moisture.

"The rice growers start their preparation for the crop from May end-June and the exercise essentially involves soil treatment for sowing the seed. This time, the rains led to the required moisture in soil and a lot of manual labour that is otherwise needed to prepare for the crop was not required," Mandal said. With expectations of a good monsoon, India that emerged as the largest supplier to rice in the world in 2020-21 is once again looking at an expanded production of paddy.

Production of rice and other field crops is also rising amid the Covid-19 pandemic as many farmers are moving away from growing perishable items. Rice contributes more than 35 per cent of the country's total food grain production.

"We have seen many farmers opting to grow field crops which are more enduring than vegetables. While this may create some demand supply mismatch for a certain kind of vegetables, overall it ensures ample supply of food grain," Venkatram Vasantavada, Managing Director & CEO, SeedWorks International Pvt Ltd told India Narrative.

Read More: <https://sambadenglish.com/how-cyclone-yaas-helped-rice-farming/>



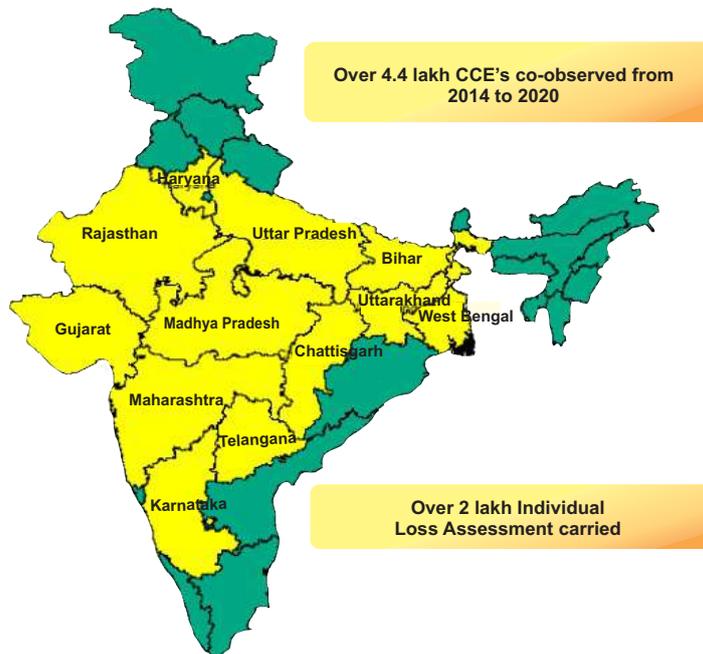
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Contact US :

Address : 501, Atlanta Estate, Nr Virvani Industrial Estate, Off Link Road, Goregaon (East), Mumbai 400063, Maharashtra
 Phone : 098202 80955
 CIN : U01403MH2015PT2614 65.
 Email : jyoti.waghmare@krishicare.in