

Rains keep farmers busy in Mysuru

[Shankar Bennur](#) | MYSURU, MAY 29, 2018



The rains over the past few days have allowed agricultural activities to pick up in Mysuru district, with farmers busy sowing crops in their fields or preparing their lands for the season's crop.

Farmers in the district bank on pre-monsoon showers for taking up sowing, which, according to officials from the Department of Agriculture, has been making good progress because of widespread downpour.

The district has 3.71 lakh hectares of cultivable land — 2.5 lakh hectares is rainfed and the rest is irrigated. Large-scale sowing of jowar, pulses, and cereals in rainfed areas is expected to commence soon. Sowing of jowar, pulses, and cereals has been taken up in some parts of the district and will intensify in the days ahead.

Among commercial crops, cultivation of cotton and tobacco is nearing the targets fixed by the department. Farmers in Hunsur, Periyapatna, and H.D. Kote taluks have almost finished planting tobacco plants given the ideal moisture level in the soil.

This year, the target fixed for cultivating cereals such as maize, jowar, ragi, and paddy is 1,94,300 hectares, and some of these crops have been sown in 26,924 hectares. Paddy is an irrigated crop and its implantation is done in the later stages when water is released from the dams. Crops such as ragi, jowar, and maize are cultivated in rain-dependent areas.

Sowing of maize is in full swing with the crop already sown in 25,242 hectares, as against the target of 42,660 hectares — which means 59% percent of the sowing has been completed. The target for the crop will be achieved soon because of widespread rains, officials said.

There has not been much headway in ragi cultivation though, with sowing taking place only in 805 hectares while the target is 40,540 hectares.

Pulses and more

The target set for pulses is 71,680 hectares, and the area covered so far is 26,033 hectares. Barring black-eyed pea or cow pea, sowing of other pulses has not picked up pace. Cow pea has been sown in 18,400 hectares so far, as against the target of 25,950 hectares.

In the irrigated belts, farmers take up sowing of pulses in the beginning and later take up paddy cultivation, when water will be released in the irrigation canals.

Hunsur is the largest cultivator of pulses in the district. The target this year for the taluk is 19,300 hectares (and 5,204 hectares has been covered). Nanjangud is the second-largest producer of pulses. Mysuru is not a major producer of oil seeds. The targeted cultivation for this year is 12,610 hectares and the area covered so far is 5,099 hectares.

Cotton is targeted to be sown in 46,780 hectares, and 79% of the sowing has been completed. H.D. Kote is the largest cultivator of cotton in Mysuru district. The target for the taluk is 30,000 hectares, and 24,160 hectares are under cultivation. Nanjangud is another taluk where cotton is cultivated predominantly.

Tobacco cultivation

Tobacco cultivation has exceeded its target in Mysuru district. The aim was to cultivate tobacco in 63,700 hectares of land, but the area of cultivation, according to official statistics, is at 65,195 hectares (102%).

The crop is largely cultivated in Hunsur and Periyapatna taluks. In Periyapatna, it has been sown in 28,250 hectares as against the target of 25,600 hectares.

The crop is yet to achieve its target in Hunsur taluk, where it has been sown in 27,970 hectares as against the target of 28,100 hectares.

VFC tobacco or cigarette tobacco produced in Karnataka constitutes around one-third of the total VFC tobacco grown in the country. VFC tobacco production is largely concentrated in Mysuru and the neighbouring Hassan district. At least 80% of the tobacco grown in Mysuru is exported. More than one lakh small and marginal farmers in Mysuru, Hassan and Chamarajanagar districts are dependent on Flue-Cured Virginia Tobacco crop for their livelihood.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/rains-keep-farmers-busy-in-mysuru/article24027730.ece>