

Cotton output likely to go up by 20-25%

By Prashant Krar, ET Bureau | Aug 09, 2019

India's cotton output could increase by 20-25 per cent over last year's level, helped by a revival in monsoon rains, higher acreage and better plant protection, according to experts.

"Rain has returned to the cottongrowing areas where it was deficient and the crop condition is good across zones and a higher yield is expected given the status of standing crops," AH Prakash, project coordinator (Cotton Improvement), Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), told ET, adding that an output of about 400 lakh bales could be expected if the weather continues to be favourable. The prevailing condition is good for cotton and the sowing area is also likely to increase over last year, Prakash said.

Last month, the Cotton Association of India revised its cotton output estimate for the 2018-19 crop season (October to September) to 312 lakh bales from 345 lakh bales earlier, citing scanty rains in the cotton-growing states as reason.

As per the agriculture ministry, kharif cotton sowing is inching up to the levels of the previous year. The area under cotton was estimated at 109 lakh hectares as on July 26, against the normal sowing of 121 hectares.

This year, sowing has increased in the northern states while it is close to last year's level in the central zone. In the southern states, sowing is still on. "Sowing has picked up after the rains in central states and Tamil Nadu," Prakash said.

"India has recorded one of the lowest outputs of cotton in 2018-19 due to scanty rains which restricted crop size in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Cotton farmers in these states had to uproot the standing crop before third and fourth picking due to lack of moisture in the last season," a senior scientist at CICR said.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/commodities/news/cotton-output-likely-to-go-up-by-20-25/printarticle/70600780.cms>