

Foodgrain output pegged at 315.72 mt

4th advance estimate projects record rice production; wheat up a tad

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India's wheat output for the 2021-22 crop year (July-June) has been raised to 106.84 million tonnes (mt) in the fourth advance estimates, 0.43 mt higher than what was estimated in May. Besides wheat, the government on Wednesday raised its production estimate of rice and coarse cereals, pegging foodgrains output at a record 315.72 mt—up by 1.21 mt—from the previous estimate.

In the 2020-21, production of foodgrains—wheat, rice, pulses and coarse cereals—was at a record high 310.74 mt.

Releasing the estimates of last season's crops, the Ministry for Agriculture and

Farmers' Welfare said a record production has been estimated in rice, maize, gram, pulses, mustard, oilseeds and sugarcane.

"This record production of so many crops is the result of the farmer-friendly policies of the Centre, as well as the tireless hard work of the farmers and the diligence of the scientists," Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said.

Record high prices

The government releases four estimates at quarterly intervals before finalising the production of the crop year. Normally, there is an upward revision in every round from the previous one after the first estimate is released.

(in million tonnes)

What the estimates say*

	3rd estimate	4th estimate
Rice	129.66	130.29
Wheat	106.41	106.84
Pulses	27.75	27.69
Coarse cereal	50.70	50.90
Foodgrains	314.51	315.72
Oilseeds	38.50	37.70
Cotton*	31.54	31.20
Sugarcane	430.50	431.81

*2021-22 crop year

Though wheat production has been projected to decline by 2.5 per cent from 109.59 mt, it was expected to be further cut from the May estimates, as the government failed to procure even half of the targeted 44 mt of wheat for buffer stocks. A section of traders pegged the wheat output at below 100 mt after yield dropped in all the growing States due to a heatwave

sweeping across the country during March-April. The raise comes on the heels of the US Department of Agriculture raising its estimate of Indian wheat to 104 mt from an earlier projection of lower than 100 mt. The drop in production and poor procurement resulted in the Centre banning wheat exports from May 13. However, the ban has not resulted in keeping wheat on the leash.

Coarse cereals down

On the other hand, rice production is projected at a record 130.29 mt for 2021-22 against 124.37 mt the previous year. The latest estimate is also higher than 129.66 mt projected in the third advance estimate. The Ministry has revised upwards coarse cereals' output to 50.90 mt from 50.70 mt in the third estimate, although it is down

from the previous year's 51.32 mt. But, there has been a downward revision in pulses output to 27.69 mt from 27.75 mt in third estimate mainly due to marginal fall in tur, gram and lentil output. However, the pulses output last year was higher when compared with previous year's 25.46 mt.

Production of oilseeds has been pegged at a record 37.69 mt in the 2021-22 crop year against 35.94 mt in the previous year. However, the latest estimate is lower after the government realistically aligned the output of soybean based on its market arrival. There has been a cut of 0.8 mt in soybean output at 12.99 mt in the latest estimate from 13.83 mt in the third estimate. Rapeseed and mustard production has been pegged at a record 17.74 mt for 2021-22.