

'Cotton output may shrink by 7% to 302 lakh bales this season'

Vishwanath Kulkarni

Bengaluru

Trade body Cotton Association of India (CAI) sees the 2024-25 cotton crop declining by 7 per cent to 302.25 lakh bales of 170 kg on dip in acreage and adverse weather impacting the crop in some areas. Production in the previous season was 325.29 lakh bales.

CAI President Atul Ganatara said in a statement that consumption during 2024-25 is estimated at 313 lakh bales of 170 kg each, the same as last season. Cotton

exports are seen 37 per cent down at 18 lakh bales for 2024-25 from 28.5 lakh bales last season on lower availability.

At the same time, imports are expected to rise by around 43 per cent to 25 lakh bales during 2024-25 from 17.5 lakh bales last season.

DIP IN NORTH, CENTRAL

As per CAI estimates, the reduction in crop size is mainly in the North and Central Zones. Reduction in the North Zone is estimated at 9.62 lakh bales while in the Central zone the decline in crop size is pegged at 11.05



The acreage is lower by about 14 lakh hectares at 112.90 lakh hectares this year

lakh bales. Total reduction in the crop size is estimated at 23.04 lakh bales over 325.29 lakh bales last season.

The reduction in the crop is largely attributed to the decline in cotton acreage, which is lower by about 14

lakh hectares at 112.9 lakh hectares this year as farmers in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh shifted to crops such as groundnut and pulses.

Total cotton supply till end of the cotton season 2024-25 (up to September 30, 2025) is estimated at 357.44 lakh bales of 170 kg. This includes the domestic production, imports and also the opening stocks of 30.19 lakh bales as on October 1.

Ganatra said the closing stocks as on September 2025 are estimated to be lower at 26.44 lakh bales of 170 kg each against 30.19 lakh bales

last season. As per CAI data, the highest cotton yield during the last five years was 2.67 bales per hectare in the 2019-20 season while the lowest yield was 2.42 bales per hectare in the 2021-22 season. The average yield during the last five years was 2.55 bales per hectare.

Considering this and the reported acreage of 112.9 lakh hectares as per the Agriculture Ministry's data, the highest cotton production in India during the 2024-25 season would be about 301 lakh bales while the lowest output would about 273 lakh bales, CAI said.