

11-6-2016

# Paddy sowing down 10%, pulses area falls 37% this kharif season



**New Delhi, June 10:** The total area sown under paddy is lower by 10% so far this kharif season at 5.75 lakh hectares, while pulses acreage is down 37% mainly due to a delay in the onset of the monsoon.

Farmers have sown pulses in 1.46 lakh hectares so far in the ongoing kharif season of the 2016-17 crop year, against 2.32 lakh hectares in the same period last year.

"Preliminary reports of crop coverage in the kharif season have started coming in. The total sown area as on 10th June, as per reports received from the states, stands at 71.24 lakh hectares as compared to 76.65 lakh hectares at this time last year," an official statement said.

After a delay of almost seven days, southwest monsoon hit Kerala on June 8. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has projected an "above normal" rainfall this year. According to agriculture ministry data, the paddy acreage is 5.75 lakh hectares so far this kharif against 6.42 lakh hectares in the corresponding period of last year.

The area under coarse cereals is also down by 47% at

2.01 lakh hectares so far compared with 3.82 lakh hectares in the year-ago period. In the non-food grains category, oilseeds acreage is lower at 0.72 lakh hectares so far as against 1.22 lakh hectares in the same period last kharif.

Cotton sowing is also lagging behind by 31% at 9.87 lakh hectares compared with 14.30 lakh hectares in the year-ago period.

However, sugarcane area is up at 44.38 lakh hectares so far against 41.01 lakh hectares in the same period last year.

With the onset of southwest monsoon, the government expects sowing operations to gain momentum.

"The monsoon is arriving at almost the same time as IMD predicted. We are hopeful and optimistic that there will be higher sowing and a very good production this year. Overall, this will be good year for agriculture," agriculture secretary Shobhana K Patnaik had said earlier this week.

India's foodgrains production stood at around 252 million tonne (mt) during the 2015-16 and 2014-15 crop years (July-June) due to two consecutive drought year.

PTI

The financial express  
11-6-2016

page-14

## Farmers' body supports ban on FDI in tobacco

**New Delhi, June 10:** Pitching for a ban on foreign investment in the tobacco sector, Federation of All India Farmer Associations (FAIFA) on Friday said multinational firms are using ambiguities in the FDI policy to endorse international brands in the country, which encourages illegal trade.

FAIFA, which claims to represent "lakhs of tobacco growers" in India, alleged the MNCs switch supply chains globally depending upon currency fluctuations and labour arbitrage, thereby making for an unstable employment opportunity and not adding value in the domestic economy.

PTI



Rajshree  
ACTO  
Library No.