

Record rice output likely on better monsoon rains

Total acreage up by 7% at 1,082 lakh ha

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, August 28
Bountiful and well-spread-out monsoon rains this year are expected to push up area under rice to a record level. With the country, as a whole, receiving 8 per cent more rains than normal, there has been a 10 per cent increase in rice planting as compared to area covered in the corresponding week last year.

According to kharif sowing data released by the Agriculture Ministry on Friday, the total area under kharif crops till this week was 1,082 lakh hectares (lha), over 7 per cent more than 1,010 lha planted in the same period in the previous kharif season.

Paddy transplantation has been carried out over 390 lha — about 35 lha more than that in the corresponding week last year. Telangana, which planted rice over an additional 10 lha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand which increased rice area by 5 lha each and West Bengal with an extra 4 lha rice area accounted for much of this increase.

Oilseeds are another kharif

Grain gain	Acreage under Kharif crops as on August 28, 2020 (in lakh hectares)			2019-20			2020-21			% over 2019-20		
	2019-20	2020-21	% over 2019-20	2019-20	2020-21	% over 2019-20	2019-20	2020-21	% over 2019-20			
Rice	354.41	389.81	9.99	Ragi	7.61	8.90	17.00					
Pulses	128.65	134.57	4.60	Maize	78.86	80.03	1.49					
Arhar	44.55	47.10	5.72	Oilseeds	170.99	193.29	13.04					
Urad	37.09	37.52	1.17	Groundnut	37.07	50.36	35.86					
Moong	30.19	34.85	15.43	Soybean	112.70	120.53	6.95					
Coarse cereals	172.49	176.89	2.55	Sesamum	12.72	13.48	5.95					
Jowar	16.18	16.29	0.69	Sugarcane	51.68	52.29	1.18					
Bajra	65.46	67.18	2.62	Cotton	124.90	128.41	2.80					
				Total*	1,009.98	1,082.22	7.15					

*includes other crops

crop that have done exceedingly well this time with a 13 per cent increase in acreage. With the area under soybean and groundnut exceeding well beyond the normal planting area, the total oilseeds acreage has gone up to 193 lha (171 lha).

Pulses gain
With all three major pulses crops — arhar, urad and moong — reporting higher acreage as compared to the same week last year, the total area under pulses touched almost 135 lha, about 4.6 per cent more than last year.

There is a marginal 2.5 to 3 per cent increase in area under coarse cereals and cotton, too. While bajra and maize reported higher area as compared to

same week last season, coverage of coarse cereals stands at 177 lha till date. Similarly, the area under cotton increased to 128.4 lha, with Telangana where cotton is planted over an extra 6 lha more than compensating for the shortfall in acreage in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Storage levels
According to the India Meteorological Department, total rainfall received across the country was 737.5 millimetres as compared to the normal of 682 mm. The water storage in 123 reservoirs in the country this week was 131 billion cubic metre (BCM), about 2 per cent more than 129 BCM in the corresponding week last year.

Bengal aims to bring 60 lakh farmers under crop cover

State to foot the entire premium; mulls using ISRO's data system for speedy settlements

SHOBHA ROY
Kolkata, August 28
West Bengal government is hopeful of bringing close to 60 lakh farmers under its flagship agriculture insurance scheme — 'Bangla Shasya Bima (BSB)' — during kharif 2020. The scheme, which was introduced in 2019, covered close to 46 lakh farmers during the rabi season.

According to Pradip Kumar Mazumder, Chief Advisor (Agriculture) to the Chief Minister, there are close to 68 lakh farmers in the State growing aman (kharif) paddy. The enrolment process for kharif 2020 will be open till September 15.

Moving away from PMFBY
West Bengal was one of the major States to move away from PMFBY (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana) in 2018 as most of its farmers were unable to upload their applications. The enrolment windows were "choked" and despite repeated requests, the Centre did not give additional time.

Moreover, in view of the lower claims than the premium paid under PMFBY, the State government decided to launch its own scheme in 2019 along with Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. Under the scheme, the entire premium is borne by the State government.

According to sources, the government is estimated to have spent close to ₹450 crore for the smooth running of the scheme and has brought more than 21 lakh hectares of cultivable land under the scheme, covering crops such as aman paddy, aus paddy, jute and maize.

"In 2019 rabi (winter) season, we covered close to 46 lakh farmers. Now in 2020, with the kind of restrictions that are in place due to pandemic and due to social distancing and other precautions we are avoiding any congregation of farmers to the extent possible. We are auto migrating those 46 lakh farmers of rabi crop with the option of changing the crop and area for aman

A snapshot of PMFBY & RWBCIS in West Bengal

	No of farmers insured (in lakh)	Area insured (lakh hectares)	Sum insured (₹ cr)	Gross premium (₹ cr)	Reported claims (₹ cr)	Paid claims (₹ cr)	No of farmers benefited (in lakhs)
2018-19	51.26	17.76	14081.37	732.68	504.14	502.4	7.12
2017-18	40.38	16.72	11,110	642.28	261.58	260.44	5.05
2016-17	41.33	19.95	12,071	704.16	421.68	421.68	11.9

Source: PMFBY

paddy. This apart, we are trying to add all those farmers who are under our *Krishak Bondhu* scheme and are also undertaking publicity activity. We will allow enrolment of farmers till September 15, so it is ongoing. We expect the numbers should definitely exceed 55-60 lakh," Mazumder told *BusinessLine*.

To cover lessee farmers
The scheme is applicable for oral lessee, share-croppers and other small and marginal farmers as the State feels that the insurance should be made available for the crop as a whole.

"The insurance is for the crop and not the person. So if a person is not owning the plot but is a genuine person who is farming the plot then if there is any loss then the compensation will accrue to him. We are not insisting on ROR (record of rights)," he said.

Speed up claim settlement
Meanwhile, with a view to

speed up the process of claim settlement for farmers, the State government plans to use the technology-driven data collection system of ISRO to verify and assess the quantum of destruction caused to crops due to severe weather. The State government plans to employ the remote sensing satellite data-acquisition technology to gauge the damage caused to the crops, if any, during the kharif season.

Poor coverage
Avik Saha, National Convenor, Jai Kisan Andolan, said, "As per government estimates 46 lakh farmers have been covered under the scheme so far and close to 21 lakh hectares of cultivable land has been brought under the scheme. However, this looks a bit inflated given the fact that a majority of farmers in the State are small and marginal farmers with an average holding of around 0.77 hectares. So if 46 lakh farmers (as has been claimed) were

covered under the scheme then the total area under coverage should have been much higher. This itself lays bare the claim of the State government."

Moreover, the State's scheme covers only paddy, maize and jute while other crops such as vegetables, wheat etc are left outside the purview of the scheme, he added.

Cyclone Amphan
The recent cyclone Amphan, which hit the State in May, had caused a huge damage to crops including paddy, sesame and vegetables. It had also destroyed the mango orchards and betel plants. Hence, insurance coverage for farmers become crucial to compensate against losses arising out of such catastrophic events. According to reports, the State government allotted ₹300 crore, at the rate of ₹1,500 each for 20 lakh farmers. Another ₹200 crore was allocated for betel-leaf farmers.

Dairy producers milking an opportunity

COMMENTARY

G. CHANDRASHEKHAR

Entrenched business interests in dairy milk and its value-added products are trying to usurp the commonly used word 'milk' by asserting that milk should be mandated to mean 'animal-derived milk' and nothing else; and anything other than dairy milk should not be termed as milk.

This argument is rather strange and fallacious because the word milk has meaning well beyond mere dairy milk — that thick white liquid secreted from the udders of domesticated animals like cows and buffaloes.

If the use of the word milk is restricted to what is obtained from the udders of cows and buffaloes, what would milk from the udders of goat, donkey and camel be called?

Goat milk continues to be popular in our country, having been Mahatma Gandhi's favourite drink. Demand for donkey milk may be waning, but it has its special uses. What if a processed product from such currently less-popular sources were to hit the market? Will the product be allowed to use the term milk? How should it be categorised?

Plant-based milk has a long tradition in our country. While soya milk and almond milk may be of recent vintage, coconut milk has a very long tradition. It is not an imitation product. It is as original as cow milk, if anything.

So, it would be tragic if use of the term milk is re-



A product that contains milk from any source (animal or plant) should mention the source itself

stricted to animal source. Indeed, use of the generic term 'milk' should not be allowed to be hijacked by influential business interests.

Ice-cream/frozen dessert?
A product that contains milk from any source (animal or plant) should mention the source itself. Ice-cream or chocolate from dairy milk should not be called 'milk ice cream' or 'milk chocolate'.

Rather it should be described as or called 'dairy milk ice cream' or 'dairy milk chocolate'. Similarly, products using plant-based milk should be described by the origin of the milk.

The fight between ice cream manufacturers using dairy milk and those using vegetable oil is, of course, well known and has been going on for years. Ice cream using vegetable oil is called 'frozen dessert'. Basically, it is a fight for market share.

Without doubt, miscommunication regarding product and its ingredients should be prevented. Unam-

biguous or clear communication is the need of the hour. In this, sections of business cannot seek to hijack generic terms like milk and insist that it should be used restrictively (to suit their business interests).

The distinction between dairy-milk and non-dairy milk is necessary. The very debate about the use of the term milk demonstrates that the word lends itself to more than one interpretation as to the source. But it would be incorrect to assert that the word 'milk' should refer exclusively to 'dairy milk'. Member of Parliament Maneka Gandhi's anger is understandable.

FSSAI should also take into account additional problems that translation of the word milk or dairy milk or plant-based milk in regional languages is likely to pose.

There is risk it can lead to deception.

The writer is a policy commentator and agri-business specialist. Views are personal

Phool.co gets funding for agri waste-to-leather idea

TV JAVAN

New Delhi, August 28
Soon, that leather bag or jacket you buy from the market may not necessarily be from animal hide. For, a bio-materials start-up founded by two alumni of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur about two years ago, has perfected the technology to convert agricultural waste into an alternative to leather, which could yield some best quality "leather-like" products.

Phool.co, which shot into fame a couple of years ago by making incense sticks from used flowers from temples, has found a way to convert biomass waste, rich in cellulose into animal-free leather.

The product named 'leather' from Phool.co, co-funded by IIT-K graduates Ankit Agarwal and Prateek Kumar, has already found takers with two early stage funders putting ₹10.5 crore (\$1.4 mil-

lion). "We have shown that any agricultural waste rich in cellulose can be used as feed-stock for producing leather. The tests carried on the product have shown them to be as good as leather produced using most animal hide," said Ankit Agarwal.

The start-up plans to use crop stubble for making leather. "We plan to use the funds to set up a unit in Haryana where crop residue is abundantly available," said Agarwal. According to him, each tonne of crop residue could yield anywhere between 140 to 70 sq ft of leather, which Phool.co plans to sell for a price of \$1.5 per square foot.

Padmaja Ruparel, Founding Partner, IAN Fund, said: "Phool.co's circular economy model brings triple bottom benefits of environmental, social, and financial sustainability."

Godrej Agrovet launches plant nutrition products

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, August 28
Godrej Agrovet has launched a new plant nutrition portfolio for plant stress management in association with a Spanish entity BIOBERCA. The new portfolio of products will initially be available in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

"Plant stress, be it abiotic (extreme temperature, low or excessive rainfall, drought) or biotic (pests infestation), is a direct result of the climate change and global warming on agriculture," a Godrej Agrovet statement said.

The new line of products included Terra Sorb Complex (for grapes, apple, chilli, potato); Ar-murox (grapes, apple, chilli, cotton); Equilibrium (tomato, brinjal, okra, capsicum, cucumbers and banana).

Tea exports plunge 27% in January-May

PSSUNDAR

Coochoor, August 28
India's tea exports have taken a beating on all three fronts — volume, value and price — so far this calendar compared to the same period of 2019.

Till May, the latest period for which official data are available with the Tea Board, India's tea exports nosedived to 74.40 million kg (mkg) from 101.38 mkg during January-May 2019, marking a loss of 26.61 per cent.

Lower availability due to reduced production, Covid-induced lockdown in many countries, suspension of transport facilities, disruption in the public auctions, hesitancy among exporters to invest huge sums against uncertain shipments and disturbance in bank-

ing operations were said to be major causes for this decline in shipments.

Earnings drop
With fewer takers, especially at higher prices, the average price dropped to ₹215.15 a kg from ₹224.21 in January-May 2019, marking a loss of 4.04 per cent.

In the five months of current calendar year, the overall earnings dropped to ₹1,600.72 crore from ₹2,273.02 crore, posting a shortfall of 29.58 per cent.

"However, the prices in the domestic market were more attractive for the producers encouraging them to sell higher volume within the country especially in the backdrop of lower production", a trader said.



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Extract of the Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2020 (₹ in Crores)

Sl.No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended	
		June 30, 2020	March 31, 2020	June 30, 2019	March 31, 2020
1	Total income from operations	1,134.06	2,348.75	1,992.13	8,555.54
2	Net loss for the period before tax from continuing operations (before Tax and Exceptional Items)	(984.93)	(616.67)	(278.73)	(1,602.50)
3	Net loss for the period before Tax from continuing operations (after Exceptional Items)	(984.93)	(1,297.58)	(278.73)	(2,283.41)
4	Net loss for the period after Tax from continuing operations (after Exceptional Items)	(833.85)	(1,127.36)	(334.85)	(2,190.49)
5	Net (loss) / profit for the period after Tax from discontinued operations	(0.02)	0.34	(1.27)	(3.70)
6	Net loss for the period after Tax from continuing and discontinued operations (4+5)	(833.87)	(1,126.82)	(336.12)	(2,202.19)
7	Total comprehensive income for the period	(669.99)	(1,291.91)	(141.30)	(2,178.04)
8	Equity share capital	603.59	603.59	603.59	603.59
9	Earnings per share (of ₹1/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) Basic & Diluted (in ₹)	(0.98)	(1.82)	(0.70)	(4.03)

Extract of the Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2020 (₹ in Crores)

Sl.No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended	
		June 30, 2020	March 31, 2020	June 30, 2019	March 31, 2020
1	Total income from operations	298.59	353.13	312.34	1,155.10
2	(Loss) / profit before tax and exceptional items	(170.50)	39.05	(129.61)	(463.67)
3	Loss before tax after exceptional items	(237.36)	(782.47)	(218.74)	(1,454.14)
4	Loss after tax and exceptional items	(235.45)	(817.38)	(215.05)	(1,429.12)
5	Total comprehensive income for the period	(2,239.80)	(1,584.50)	(378.04)	(5,713.13)
6	Equity share capital	603.59	603.59	603.59	603.59
7	Earnings per share (of ₹1/- each) Basic & Diluted (in ₹)	(0.39)	(1.35)	(0.36)	(2.45)

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly / annual financial results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly / Annual Financial results are available on the websites of the stock exchanges (www.bseindia.com and www.nse-india.com) and on Company's website www.gmrgroup.in.
2. The unaudited consolidated and standalone financial results of the Company for the quarter ended June 30, 2020 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee at their meeting held on August 26, 2020 and approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on August 27, 2020.

Place: New Delhi
Date: August 27, 2020

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Grandhi Kiran Kumar
Managing Director & CEO
GMR GROUP - GIL / TSB / PREM ASSOCIATES

Vision: 2040
Empowering Nation with 25000 MW

OUR SHARED VISION
5000 MW : 2023
12000 MW : 2030
25000 MW : 2040

एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड
SJVN Limited
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.)
A Mini Ratna & Schedule "A" PSU
CIN : L40101HP1988GOI008409

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Extract of the Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2020 (₹ Lakh)

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated	
		Quarter ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Quarter ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	67,489	71,249	270,761	71,249
2.	Profit before exceptional items, net movement in regulatory deferral account balance and tax	44,354	55,183	177,251	44,604
3.	Profit before net movement in regulatory deferral account balance and tax	39,181	55,183	176,642	39,431
4.	Profit before tax after net movement in regulatory deferral account balance	38,414	54,965	195,936	38,782
5.	Net Profit after tax from continuing operations	30,108	42,054	165,189	30,390
6.	Total Comprehensive Income after tax	29,854	41,684	163,387	30,136
7.	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of share ₹10/- each)	392,980	392,980	392,980	392,980
8.	Other equity excluding Revaluation Reserve			782,951	
9.	Earnings Per Share for continuing operations (before net movement in regulatory deferral account balance) (of ₹10/- each) (not annualised) (in ₹) - Basic & Diluted	0.78	1.07	3.80	0.79
10.	Earnings Per Share for continuing operations (after net movement in regulatory deferral account balance) (of ₹10/- each) (not annualised) (in ₹)	0.77	1.07	4.20	0.77

Notes : 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results of the Company are available on the investor section of our website <http://www.sjvn.nic.in> and under Corporate Section of BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <http://www.bseindia.com> & <http://www.nseindia.com>.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/-
(Nand Lal Sharma)
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN:03495554

Place: Shimla
Dated : 28th August, 2020

