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THE HINDU BusinessLine

Horticultural output seen at a record 300 mt in 2016-17

	2016-17 (3rd Estimates)		2015-16 (Final)	
	Area	Output	Area	Output
Rich harvest <small>(Area in 000 ha, production in 000 tonnes)</small>				
Fruits				
Apple	278	2258	277	2521
Banana	852	30275	841	29135
Citrus	1037	12053	1024	11581
Mango	2267	20295	2209	18643
Total fruits*	6457	93707	6301	90183
Vegetables				
Onion	1293	21718	1320	20931
Potato	2151	48237	2117	43417
Tomato	799	19542	774	18732
Total vegetables*	10295	176177	10106	169064
Plantation crops				
Arecanut	459	718	474	714
Cashewnut	1041	779	1036	671
Coconut	2076	16837	2088	15256
Spices				
Chillies (Dried)	845	2126	811	1520
Cardamom	85	28	86	24
Coriander	704	900	582	585
Cumin	781	489	808	503
Pepper	131	72	129	55
Turmeric	222	1132	186	943
Total spices*	3705	8202	3474	6988

*Includes others

Source: Agri Ministry

Bumper harvest expected on good rains, jump in area

Production of horticultural crops for the year 2016-17 (July-June) is pegged at a record 300 million tonnes (mt), with fruits and vegetables witnessing a significant increase in output due to abundant rains and rise in area.

According to the third advance estimates of horticultural production, released by the government on Thursday, the area under cultivation went up by 2.6 per cent to 25.1 million hectares (ha) from 24.5 million ha in 2015-16.

All major staple vegetables -- onion, potato and tomato -- have registered an increase in output.

While onion output in 2016-17 is projected at 21.72mt, 3.8 per cent up over previous year's 20.93mt, tomato production is estimated at a record 19.54 mt, up 4.3 per cent over 18.73 mt. At 48.2 mt, potato production, too, is estimated to be substantially higher than previous year's 43.42 mt.

The total production of horticultural crops in 2016-17, including fruits, vegetables, flowers, plantation crops and spices, is estimated to be a record 299.85 mt, 4.6 per cent higher than the previous year's 286.18mt. There is a slight increase of 0.7 per cent in the projected output, compared to 295 mt recorded in the second advance estimates released in May this year.

Fruit production is expected to go up to 93.7 mt from 90mt in 2015-16, while vegetable output is projected to be at a record 176 mt, compared to 169 mt last year.

All major fruit crops – barring apple – registered a significant increase in production.

The highest growth in terms of percentage is registered by spices, whose production is projected to grow by 15 per cent to 8.2 mt against 7 mt in 2015-16. There is also a spurt in plantation crop output, thanks to an increase in coconut production, which is expected to go up to 16.84 mt compared to last year's 15.2.6 mt. Production of chillies (dried) has jumped to 2.126 mt against 1.520 mt in the previous year. Similarly coriander and turmeric output has seen a major jump during 2016-17. However, the production of cumin has dropped marginally, while other spices such as cardamom and pepper have also seen a rise.

The plantation crop production is projected to be at 18.35 mt.

The production of flowers is projected to be 2.28 mt, whereas honey production is expected to top 95,000 tonnes, according to the latest estimates.

(This article was published on August 31, 2017)

Export push will help realise goal of doubling farm income

The government should increase agricultural exports to achieve the stated objective of doubling farmers' income by 2022, according to a recent study conducted by the Centre for Environment and Agriculture and Tata Strategic Management Group.

Globally, India ranks second in agricultural production at \$367 billion but is only pegged eighth in exports at \$36 billion, said Rajju Shroff, Managing Director, UPIL (United Phosphorus India Ltd).

Global agri-exports is worth over \$1,500b annually, according to the latest WTO data.

A concerted effort by the government can push exports to \$100b by 2022, as India is the leading producer of many commodities, he said. Globally, India is the largest producer of milk and second-largest in fruits, vegetables and fish. In value terms, horticulture and livestock sectors now account for over 50 per cent of agri-production. India's present agriculture is structurally different from the one that existed earlier.

Huge potential

However, Indian agri-products are not promoted properly in the global market. Though mango production is much higher here, Pakistan exports more than India. Thailand's overall exports is much higher than that of India, said Shroff.

The Centre for Environment and Agriculture has urged the government to make it mandatory for airlines to allocate 30 per cent of air cargo for agri-exports, and use the services of the Indian embassy in various countries to promote exports.

On the lines of the 'Make In India' campaign, the report urged the government to launch 'Grow In India', and aim for substantial gains in agri-exports with a single authority to monitor India's international agri trade.

The study debunked popular notions about farmers injecting hormones and using colouring chemicals to improve the colour and size of certain fruits. The health scare about pesticide residue in food is a malafide campaign propagated by foreign-funded NGOs to tarnish Indian agriculture, said Shroff.

The usage of crop-protection chemicals in India is the lowest at 0.4 kg per hectare (kg/ha) compared to 17 kg/ha in China, 12.5 kg/ha in Japan and 3.7 kg/ha in Germany and France, said the study.

(This article was published on August 31, 2017)

Monsoon withdrawal from N-W India may be delayed



Strong monsoon-friendly south-easterly winds prevailed over North-West India on the eve of the appointed day of withdrawal of monsoon from the country.

The withdrawal from Rajasthan that normally starts on September 1 (Friday) could get slightly delayed, as is inferred from the wind profile maps put out by India Met Department (IMD).

The withdrawal may not set in motion at least during the first week of September, since there are incipient signs of a fresh rain-generating weather system brewing over the Bay of Bengal.

The withdrawal, marked by reversal of winds, must be strong enough over North-West India and East India to prevail over the rain-driving system from the Bay.

Rain deficit status

Meanwhile, rainfall statistics revealed a sudden shoot-up in deficit over the contiguous Met subdivisions of West Uttar Pradesh (37 per cent) and Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi (32 per cent) at the end of August.

Elsewhere, the deficit moderated to below 25 per cent, as in South Interior Karnataka and East Uttar Pradesh (20 per cent each); Kerala (21 per cent); East Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha (24 per cent each). The deficit for the country as a whole is 4 per cent.

Meanwhile, the IMD has withdrawn the outlook for intensification of Wednesday's well-marked low-pressure located on Thursday over Kutch, adjoining North-East Arabian Sea and South Pakistan.

The system is preparing to sign off from mainland India after drenching Mumbai, Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch, but is still able to fan monsoon south-easterlies over large parts of North-West India.

And this is what is effectively delaying the process of the monsoon's withdrawal from western Rajasthan.

(This article was published on August 31, 2017)

Shallot processing centre opens in Perambalur

A central processing centre for shallots (small onions) has come up in Tamil Nadu's Perambalur village.

The Common Food Processing Incubation Centre was set up at a cost of ₹1 crore to prevent wastage of shallots and to increase farmers' income, said Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Food Processing Minister, who inaugurated the centre on Thursday.

The centre will produce fresh shallot, peeled shallot, onion powder, onion paste and onion flakes.

C Anandharamakrishnan, Director, Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, said the institute plans to take one crop per year and develop processing technologies and related infrastructure for that crop.

(This article was published on August 31, 2017)

CMFRI aims to boost fishoutput in Lakshadweep

Aimed at improving the fisheries in Lakshadweep, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has taken efforts to develop a fishery management plan for the sustainable harvest of fish stock.

According to A Gopalakrishnan, CMFRI Director, the institute intends to develop the fishery management plan as the region is in urgent need for a well-accepted global market network.

The main objectives of the project are: to assess the stock of exploited marine fishery resources; to analyse the economic performance of fishing methods and market dynamics; and assessing the socio-economic status of fishers in the region.

Fishing is the main occupation of Lakshadweep, which has a coastline of 132 km. Around 13 per cent of the population are active, full-time fishermen. The success of the fishery depends on tuna pole and line fishing— they are one of the most environmental-friendly and socially desirable ways of catching tuna. Collection of bait fishes is the prime component of the pole and line tuna fishery, said K Mohammed Koya, Principal Investigator of the project.

He pointed out that the marine fisheries sector in Lakshadweep has undergone tremendous changes in the recent years, and the emphasis has now shifted to increasing production.

However, the task of sustaining coastal fisheries is assuming a challenging proposition, with increasing demand on fish for nutritional security, scarcity of bait, as well as extrinsic pressures on fishing due to climate change, pollution, environmental degradation and irrational fishing, he said.

(This article was published on August 31, 2017)

Horticulture output up 5% to record 300 mt in 2016-17



The country's horticulture production rose by 5 per cent to touch an all-time high of 300 million tonnes during 2016-17 on the back of record output of fruits, vegetables, spices and plantation crops.

According to government data, area under horticulture crops increased by 2.6 per cent to 25.1 million hectares in 2016-17 from 24.5 million hectares in the previous year,

The agriculture ministry released the third advance estimates of area and production of horticulture crops for 2016-17.

“The record production of horticulture crops in the country during 2016-17 is estimated to be around 300 million tonnes, which is 4.8 per cent higher as compared to the previous year,” it said.

On good monsoon rains last year, the country's overall foodgrain production was also at an all-time high of 275.68 million tonnes in the 2016-17 crop year that ended in June.

As per the latest estimates, fruit output is estimated to be record 93.7 million tonnes in 2016-17, up 3.9 per cent from the previous year.

Vegetable production rose by 4 per cent to record 176 million tonnes in 2016-17.

Among vegetables, onion production rose by nearly 4 per cent to 21.7 million tonnes. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat are major onion producing states in the country.

The country witnessed record potato output at 48.2 million tonnes in 2016-17 from 43.4 million tonnes in the previous year. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab are major producing states.

Tomato output, too, grew by 4 per cent to around 19.5 million tonnes. The major growing states are Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha and Gujarat.

“Production of flowers is estimated to be around 2.3 million tonnes which is 4.3 per cent higher than the previous year. Production of aromatics and medicinal plants is estimated to be around 1.04 million tonnes which is 2 per cent higher than the previous year,” the statement said.

Plantation crops (areca nut, cashewnut, cocoa and coconut) output is estimated at record 18.3 million tonnes, up 10.2 per cent higher than the previous year.

“Record production of spices is estimated to be around 8.2 million tonnes which is 17.4 per cent higher than the previous year,” the statement said.

(This article was published on August 31, 2017)

Horticulture output to touch 300 mt in 2016-17





The horticulture production in 2016-17 is headed for a record 300 million tonnes (mt), which is marginally higher than the previously estimated 295 mt, according to third advance estimates of horticulture production released on Thursday. In comparison, the total horticulture output was 286 mt in the previous year.

The government also revised upward the area under horticulture crops – fruits, vegetables, flowers, plantation crops and spices -- 2016-17 to 25.1 million hectares (ha), which was slightly more than the previously estimated 24.925 million ha. While fruit production is expected to go up slightly to 93.7 mt, vegetable output is projected to be a record 176 mt, as compared to 175 mt estimated in the second advance estimates.

The highest growth in terms of percentage is registered by spices, whose production is projected to grow by 15 per cent to 8.2 mt as against previously estimated 7 mt. There is also a spurt in plantation crop output, thanks to an increase in coconut production which is expected to go up to 16.84 mt as compared to 15.34 mt estimated in the second advance estimates. The plantation crop production is projected to be 18.35 mt.

The production of flowers is projected to be 2.28 mt whereas honey production is expected to top 95,000 tonnes, according to the latest estimates.

(This article was published on August 31, 2017)

Business Standard

Horticulture output seen at record 300 mn tonnes

The per-hectare yield of horticulture crops has also been more than that of foodgrain

Horticulture production for the 2016-17 crop year is now estimated to be a record 300 million tonnes, according to the third advanced estimate released on Thursday. This is almost 4.8 per cent higher than last year's and 1.58 per cent more than the second estimate released in February.

The record harvest has put horticulture output ahead of foodgrain production for a fifth year. Foodgrain production was estimated at around 276 million tonnes, according to the fourth estimate released earlier this month.

The area under horticulture crops rose 2.6 per cent to 25.1 million hectares in 2016-17 against the previous year. From 2004-05 to 2016-17, India's area under horticulture crops rose 34.22 per cent while horticulture production went up by almost 80 per cent. Production of foodgrain during the period rose 39.4 per cent.

The per-hectare yield of horticulture crops has also been more than that of foodgrain. But experts said the numbers weren't strictly comparable as production patterns and processes were different. However, a jump in horticulture production not supplemented by adequate processing and storage capacities might lead to a massive swing in prices.

This year, too, due to a bumper harvest, prices of onions had dropped sharply before rising suddenly. Damage to standing kharif crops had caused the spurt. Tomato prices dropped to record lows in April to June, followed by a crash in potato prices. A slump in prices of onions, tomatoes and potatoes in April to June had caused a nationwide farmers' agitation. The stir had turned violent and six farmers were shot dead in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh.