

Farmers may plant more maize, cotton, soyabean due to export demand

By Madhvi Sally, ET Bureau | Jun 06, 2019, 08.13 AM IST

New Delhi: Farmers are likely to plant more basmati rice, maize, cotton, tur, urad and soyabean and less of moong and groundnut because of the price trend and export demand but they will take call after the government announces the minimum support price for this year's kharif, or summer-sown crops, company executives and analysts said.

The progress of the keenly awaited monsoon rainfall will also be an important factor in determining this season's cropping pattern, they said.

"This summer season, we can expect farmers in the irrigated belts of Punjab and Haryana to shift from normal rice to basmati rice. Since the past one year, they have got good prices for basmati with increase in demand from domestic and export market," said Angshu Mallick, deputy CEO, Adani Wilmar.

Farmers have already started preparing land for their kharif crop and raising paddy nurseries from where saplings will be transplanted to fields by the second week of June. The government has kept the target of planting similar to the previous year at 102 lakh hectares.

Davish Jain, chairman of the Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA), said that looking at the price trend of soyabean and maize, farmers will be enthused to plant them this season.

"Farmers have got 15 per cent higher price at Rs 3,800-3,900 compared to the government fixed price. The exports were also higher," he said.

Farmers will require 3-4 inches of rain to start planting and which will be essential for the germination of the seed, said Jain.

Farmers will plant those commodities which required less water as the monsoon may be below normal this year, said Anuj Gupta, deputy VP- research, commodities, Angel Broking.

He said that the government focus has to be self-dependence on pulses and oilseeds and to increase seed replacement ratio and varietal replacement.

"The tur prices has increased almost 11 per cent from Rs 5,200 to Rs 5,800 per quintal and the urad prices has increased almost 10 per cent from Rs 5,000 to Rs 5,500 per quintal in last one year. Even cotton prices have increased by almost 11 per cent from Rs 19,800 to Rs 21,000 per bale in the last one year which will influence how farmers plant," said Gupta. Pulses can be intercropped with oilseeds, sugarcane, millets, maize and cotton.

CROP PATTERN

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“In Maharashtra, sugarcane acreage has fallen according to field reports. We will wait for satellite report and give a final analysis in the beginning of July,” said Abinash Verma, director general, Indian Sugar Mills Association.

In unirrigated parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat, farmers may go for guar if it rains, said BD Aggarwal, managing director of Vikas WSP, a guar gum polymer maker.

“In irrigated areas guar planting is going on. If the rains are normal and well distributed then we can see additional area coming to guar along with moong pulses,” he said.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/commodities/news/farmers-may-plant-more-maize-cotton-soyabean-due-to-export-demand/articleshow/69670053.cms>