

Karnataka farmers eye more area under cotton, oilseeds, pulses this kharif season

Total acreage under the crops up 10 per cent at 12.97 lh till June 10

OUR BUREAU

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Farmers in Karnataka are likely to bring in more area under cotton, pulses and oilseeds this kharif planting season. Acreages under cotton and sunflower have doubled till June 10, while pulses such as tur and green gram have increased as kharif sowing is seen gaining pace.

Total acreages under the kharif crop stood at 12.97 lakh hectares (lh) till June 10, an increase of 10 per cent compared with 11.73 lh in the same period a year ago, according to the Karnataka Agriculture Department. The State has received 99

per cent more rains during the January-May period, while the overall precipitation showed a deficit of 19 per cent in the first ten days of this year's monsoon season starting June 1.

Till the end of May, about 3.18 lh were sown in districts like Chamarajanagar, Mandya, Hassan, Chikkamagalur, Tumkur, Koppal, Ramanagar, Mysuru and Chitradurga with crops such as jowar, greengram, blackgram, cowpea, sesamum, sunflower and cotton among others. This was ahead of the targeted 2.80 lh for the period. The area under cotton acreage stood at 1.21 lh as of June 10 compared with 0.59 lh in the year-ago period.

Area under pulses up

In several parts of Karnataka, including Chamrajanagar, Haveri and Gadag districts, the long-staple variety of cotton is



planted early in the season, where farmers have brought in more area under the fibre crop. Contrary to the expectations, the area under pulses is seen rising in the state, with total acreages increasing to 3.33 lh compared with 2.66 lh. Tur has been planted in some 0.67 lh compared with 0.48 lh. Similarly, green gram has been planted on 1.82 lh (1.39 lakh ha). However, the area under black gram has dropped marginally to 0.27 lh (0.30 lh).

Soya, sunflower preferred
Maize acreages stood at 2.02 lh

(2.11 lh), while the overall area under cereals crop stood lower at 2.70 lh (3.78 lh).

Among oilseeds, farmers are seen showing an increasing preference for sunflower and soyabean. The area under sunflower has almost doubled to 0.57 lh compared with 0.29 lh, while soyabean acreage has increased to 0.47 lh (0.36 lh). Groundnut has been planted on 0.26 lh, the same as last year.

Sugarcane acreage is a tad lower at 3.54 lh compared with 3.66 lh, while the area under tobacco has increased to 0.71 lh (0.64 lh). Karnataka has set a cereals production target of 97.61 lakh tonnes from an area of 35.98 lh. For pulses, the acreage target is 22.77 lh and production of 17.19 lakh tonnes. The state is targetting oilseeds acreage of 9.37 lh and for cotton, some 7.28 lh.