

Cotton farmers demand ₹12,000/quintal as MSP

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Cotton farmers have demanded a minimum support price (MSP) of ₹12,000 a quintal during the current season, saying the cost of production has increased significantly, while yields have dropped.

In Telangana, cotton growers claim the cost of production is ₹8,000 a quintal due to an increase in the usage of pesticides and labour costs. "Yields have come down significantly. We are getting only about 4-5 quintals an acre. The present MSP of ₹6,080 is not sufficient for farmers to meet the cost of production," S Malla Reddy, Vice-President of All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS), told *businessline*.

Demanding the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to purchase the produce at ₹12,000 a



quintal, farmers' unions have decided to organise protests in front of the offices of Mandal Revenue Officers from October 29-31.

WEATHER DAMAGE

"Due to heavy rains this season, cotton crop on lakhs of acres was damaged. We are expecting lower production this year," Bonthu Rambabu, a senior leader of Telangana Rythu Sangham, said. Farmers in the State have brought 20.25 lakh hectares under cotton this year.