

# Wheat crop in good condition, procurement to be normal: FCI

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New Delhi, 23 February

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) said that wheat procurement in the season that starts from the middle of March will be normal at around 30-40 million tonnes (mt) and that crop condition is normal, notwithstanding threat from rising temperatures, its Chairman and Managing Director Ashok K K Meena said on Thursday at a press conference.

“Area sown to wheat is higher than last year. The current condition of the wheat crop is very good. Our procurement should be normal at 30-40 mt in 2023-24,” said Meena.

Wheat procurement had declined last year due to a fall in domestic production and higher exports, he clarified.

Asked whether there would be any impact on wheat crop due to temperature rise, as fore-

## Heatwave spectre hangs over wheat harvest

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday reiterated that Northwest, Central, and East India are predicted to record maximum temperatures three to five degrees above normal over the next five days. Many parts of the country are already recording temperatures that are usually logged in the first week of March. This has fuelled concern about an intense summer and heatwaves this year. Weathermen also said that the mercury may soar to 40 degrees Celsius and above in one or two meteorological subdivisions of Northwest India in the first half of March.

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cast by the India Meteorological Department, Meena said it is unlikely to have any impact and that short-duration crop will not be affected. According to the Second Estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture, the government

has projected a record wheat production of 112.18 mt in the 2023-24 crop year (July-June).

Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Director A K Singh said there was no reason to worry as there was “less likelihood” of termi-

## Making millets mainstream: Two-day event begins today

Over 500 representatives from civil society organisations, state governments, policy makers, scientists, corporates, and farmers will brainstorm, over two-days making millets mainstream and making it the people’s food. The two-day event, starting Friday, will focus on finding ways to make millet affordable and accessible while benefiting millions of farmers and rural entrepreneurs through people-centric approaches to millet cultivation and processing (establish productive and resilient rainfed agriculture) in collaboration with the Centre’s National Rainfed Area Authority.

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nal heat condition till March 16. The institute has weather forecast for 30 days. Last year, wheat procurement for the central pool had declined to 18.79 mt, from 43.34 mt in the 2021-22 marketing year, as indicated by official data.