

# 2022-23 wheat output downsized to 110.55 mt

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Amid criticism over wheat production estimates after prices remained high, the Agriculture Ministry has lowered the crop's output to 110.55 million tonnes (mt) in the final estimates released Wednesday from 112.74 mt pegged during the third round of survey for 2022-23 crop year (July-June). The output was still a record and up by 2.6 per cent from 107.74 mt in 2021-21.

According to the final estimates of production of major crops for 2022-23, based on the data received from States and validated with other sources, total foodgrain output is estimated at record 329.69 mt, higher by 4.5 per cent from 315.62 mt during 2021-22. Further, the production during 2022-23 was 30.87 mt higher, compared with the previous five years'

## Final crop estimate 2022-23

(million tonnes)	2021-22	2022-23		% change against year-ago
	Final	Third	Final	
Rice	129.47	135.54	135.76	4.9
Wheat	107.74	112.74	110.55	2.6
Pulses	27.3	27.5	26.06	-4.5
Coarse cereals	51.1	54.75	57.32	12.2
Total foodgrains	315.62	330.53	329.69	4.46
Oilseeds	37.96	41	41.36	9.0
Sugarcane	439.43	494.23	490.53	11.6
Cotton*	31.12	34.35	33.66	8.2

\*in million bales of 170kg each; Source: Agriculture Ministry

(2017-18 to 2021-22) average production of foodgrains.

### FREQUENCY PARED

The Ministry is likely to release only four estimates in a year from now on instead of five earlier, sources said. "In the current agricultural year, the conventional release of the Fourth Advance Estimate in

August has been substituted with the Final Estimates now," an official said. Earlier, the final estimates used to be made public in February.

Sources said the Government plans to reduce one estimate every year and finally in 2026-27, there may be one estimate which will be mostly arrived at and validated with the

use of all kinds of modern technologies including satellite mapping, drone, weather station data, AI and MI. The Government is yet to release the first estimates for 2023-24, which was earlier announced in third or fourth week of September.

"This alteration allows for the swift provision of conclusive assessments for major agricultural crops, only a few months after the conclusion of the agricultural year. Furthermore, in this agricultural year, a more precise approach has been taken by separating the Rabi season from the summer season (zaid) in crop estimates," the official source said. Previously, these two seasons were combined under the Rabi category. This separate estimates for zaid season has been done for specific crops such as rice, jowar, bajra, maize, urad, moong, groundnut, sunflower and sesamum.