

# Govt targets 114 MT wheat output

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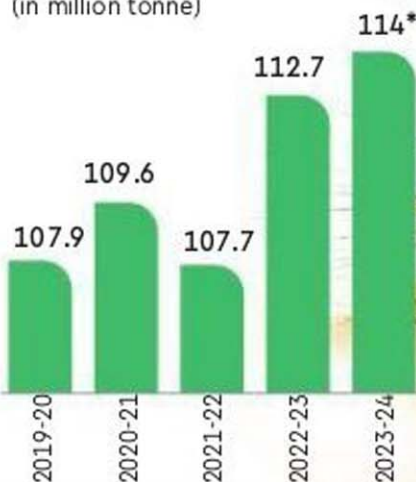
**THE GOVERNMENT ON** Tuesday set a higher wheat production target of 114 million tonne (MT) for the 2023-24 rabi season against an estimated output of 112.74 MT in the year-ago period.

The government is aiming to bring around 60% of the total wheat area of 30 million hectare (MH) under climate-resistant varieties to deal with extreme climatic conditions such as the heat wave and rain just prior to harvesting in the last two years.

"There are certain changes in climate change, which are affecting agriculture. Our strategy is climate resilient seeds," Manor Ahuja, secretary, department of agriculture and farmers welfare, said at the national con-

## WHEAT PRODUCTION

(in million tonne)



Source: agriculture ministry, crop year (July-June), \*target

ference for chalking out strategies for the rabi season.

The higher wheat production target is expected because

of a forecast of sufficient rainfall till the third week of October across several parts of the country, which is expected to boost

soil moisture level. Sowing of rabi crops — wheat, pulses and oilseeds — is likely to commence in the latter part of next month, after harvesting of kharif crops.

Because of lower output, the Food Corporation of India (FCI)'s wheat procurement had dropped by 130% to 18.79 MT in 2022-23 marketing season on year. In the current year, FCI could purchase only 26.2 MT of the grain from the farmers.

The government has set marginally higher foodgrain production targets of 332 MT for the 2023-24 crop year (July-June), of which rabi season will contribute 161.2 MT.

The government is aiming to increase production of pulses such as chana (gram) and oilseeds, mainly mustard, in the coming season to reduce import dependency of these crops.