

Agriculture dept expecting bumper kharif paddy harvest

Amaravati: The state is expecting a bumper paddy harvest during kharif thanks to abundant rain in the last three months. The agriculture department expects that paddy harvest is likely to set a record if the season goes off smoothly without any natural disasters. Almost all the districts have received surplus rainfall during the season helping farmers to swing into action on time. Thanks to heavy rainfall in the upper-catchment area of the rivers Krishna, Godavari, Penna and Vamsadhara, all reservoirs are brimming with water. The irrigation department has readied a plan for release of water from different reservoirs to canals in different regions to tap the benefits of rain. The irrigation department is anticipating more rains and flood in Krishna and Godavari in September and October which might further help it release additional water to the canals. Paddy farmers have completed nurseries in about 30 lakh acres in different districts and total area under paddy cultivation is likely to touch 45 to 50 lakh acres in the next two weeks with the tail-end of the canals receiving waters. Majority of the canals in the state are gushing with waters released from the projects. The state government had in principle decided to release water for paddy cultivation under Nagarjuna Sagar Right Canal (NSRC) spread over nearly 12 lakh acres in Guntur and Prakasam districts. Sowing operations or nurseries were completed in about 14 lakh acres under Krishna delta spread of Krishna, Guntur, West Godavari and Prakasam districts. "We are expecting that there will be nearly 20 percent jump from the previous year in paddy production by the end of the season," said agriculture mission vice-chairman MVS Nagireddy. Interestingly, the cultivation of all other crops have also been in full swing and is likely to set new records. According to latest information, the sowing operations of food grain crops including paddy, red gram and other pulses touched nearly 45 lakh acres which is likely to go up further in the coming weeks. Similarly, the ground nut is being cultivated in a record 20 lakh acres against the last year's 12 lakh acres. With Rayalaseema region getting heavy rains, farmers have gone for groundnut cultivation in a big way. While pulses are being cultivated in about 5 lakh acres, coarse grains were sowed in about three lakh acres.

Source: [The Times of India, September 03, 2020 \(verbatim reproduced\)](#)