

Wheat production will touch to 98 million tonne for 2016-17

The production of Wheat in the country for the ongoing crop year ending June is expected to touch the record level of 98 million tonnes owing to the higher yields. The production of Wheat in the country for the ongoing crop year ending June is expected to touch the record level of 98 million tonnes owing to the higher yields. The agricultural ministry is expecting a record wheat output of 96.64 million tonnes for the current crop year (July-June) as compared to the actual output of 92.29 million tonnes in the last year, reported a business daily.

The agricultural ministry believes that the wheat output is likely to touch all-time high level of 98 million tonnes since the state governments have reported positive wheat yields for the ongoing crop year. For the summer days in February to March, the weather conditions in the country were favourable. The soil moisture remained normal throughout the summer days to yield good crops. The Indian Meteorological Department has forecasted normal monsoon for the year ahead signalling a good boost for the Indian economy.

http://www.indiaonline.com/article/news-top-story/wheat-production-wheat-production-likely-to-touch-record-high-of-98-mt-for-2016-17-crop-year-117042600322_1.html

Wheat production increased in Nepal

Besides the surge in total volume, the productivity of wheat also increased this year when compared to the past two seasons. In this season, wheat was planted over 29,400 hectares of land and the productivity was 2.84 tonnes per hectare of land. Per hectare productivity was 2.5 tonnes last year and 2.7 tonnes the year before.

Production in the last two seasons was due to poor rainfall and unavailability of fertilisers in the market, according to Gyawali. Around 80 percent of the wheat produced in the district is consumed within the district while the remaining 20 percent is exported to neighbouring districts. More than 40,000 people of the district are involved in wheat farming. National Wheat Research Centre in Rupandehi district conducted a research on 37 varieties of seeds and suggested the Tilottma variety of seed for the region for best

productivity. Farmers of the district are using the suggested seed as well as other varieties. Per hectare productivity of Tilottma variety is 4.4 tonnes and germination rate is 85 percent.

The country is also expected to see marginal growth in production of the wheat. According to a recent report by Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Nepal's wheat harvest is expected to increase marginally by 2.6 percent to 1.78 million tonnes in fiscal year 2016-17 after a double-digit slump in the previous year. Wheat output had plunged by 12.1 percent to a six-year low of 1.73 million tonnes in the last fiscal year due to winter drought and political unrest in Tarai which restricted cross-border trade.

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2017-04-27/rupandehi-sees-surge-in-wheat-production.html>

Centre's wheat procurement has gone up by 13.74 %

The Centre's wheat procurement has gone up by 13.74 per cent to 119 lakh tonnes so far in the 2017-18 marketing year on higher purchases from Punjab and Haryana. Although the wheat marketing year runs from April to March, the bulk of procurement is done in the first three months. Procurement commenced early this year, from March 15, in some States like Madhya Pradesh. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) as well as State agencies undertake procurement operation at the minimum support price (MSP). They have set a target to buy 330 lakh tonne wheat this year, against 229.6 lakh tonne in 2016-17.

“Wheat procurement will pick up pace in the coming weeks. So far, about 119.07 lakh tonnes of wheat has been purchased, against 104.68 lakh tonnes in the same period last year,” said a senior FCI official. Much of the procurement has been done from Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. It is yet to pick up in Gujarat and Rajasthan, he added. As per FCI data, wheat procurement in Haryana has increased to 47.16 lakh tonne so far this year, against 44.56 lakh tonne in the year-ago period. Similarly, the procurement in Punjab has gone up to 37.42 lakh tonne from 30.81 lakh tonne, while in Madhya Pradesh it rose to 30.55 lakh tonne from 28.29 lakh tonne.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/wheat-procurement-up-14/article9647769.ece>

Over 37.15 lakh metric tonnes of wheat arrives in Haryana

More than 37.15 lakh metric tonnes of wheat has so far arrived in the mandis (grain markets) of Haryana. Out of the total arrived wheat, the five Government procuring agencies have purchased 37.12 lakh metric tonnes and traders have purchased 3,000 metric tonnes of wheat at Minimum Support Price. A spokesman of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department said the procurement process was running smoothly in the mandis.

Giving details of the wheat procured by Government agencies, he said that more than 9.36 lakh metric tonnes of wheat has been procured by Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, whereas Haryana State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation Limited (HAFED) has purchased more than 12.54 lakh metric tonnes of wheat. He said that Food Corporation of India has purchased more than 4.25 lakh metric tonnes of wheat, Haryana Agro Industries Corporation have purchased more than 3.09 lakh metric tonnes and more than 7.85 lakh metric tonnes of wheat has been procured by Haryana Warehousing Corporation.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/chandigarh/over-3715-lakh-metric-tonnes-of-wheat-arrives-in-haryana-mandis.html>

More private agencies buying wheat this year in Punjab

Meanwhile, it was revealed that after change of government this year, contracts of transporters to load and unload wheat were done late and hence lifting got delayed. Private Purchase of wheat at mandis has increased three times this procurement season compared to the previous year. According to data available with the Punjab Mandi Board against the 22,000 tonne purchase of wheat by private players from April 2016 till date, the purchase this year has gone up to 88,000 tonnes from various mandis of Punjab. Besides, of the total arrival of 36.5 lakh tonnes of wheat at mandis, 33.5 lakh tonnes have been purchased. However, lifting remains a major issue even this year as only 10 lakh tonnes have been lifted, thereby causing a problem for farmers as to where would they unload their stock if lifting progresses at snail's pace.

However, this year, MSP at the minimum support price is Rs 1,625 a quintal and most of the stock is being sold at MSP while the highest deal went up to Rs 1,650 a quintal, he informed. However, due to the excessive heat, wheat ripened fast and hence arrival has been advanced compared to last April. The data shows that the total arrival of wheat till date is nearly 36.5 lakh tonnes this year while it was only 25 lakh tonnes from April 1, 2016, till date. Cheema said, "We are requesting the government to expedite lifting of wheat as its weight is reducing due to the loss of moisture and so, it will become a problem when stocking will be done."

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/punjab-more-private-players-buying-wheat-this-year-says-mandi-board/>

Hail Damages Standing Wheat Crops in 41,000 ha Across Himachal Pradesh

Reports of crop damage from hail in some parts of the State on April 6, 7 and 8 have been received by the Chief Agriculture Officers (CAO). Officials provided this information to the State Agriculture Minister Subodh Uniyal during a review meeting. The Minister chaired a review meeting late on Friday night with departmental officials to review works of the Agriculture Department. In the meeting, Uniyal sought information about the crop damage reported from hail and strong winds in some parts of the State on April 6, 7 and 8. Responding to his query, the Agriculture Director informed the Minister that reports of such crop damage in parts of the state had been received from the Chief Agriculture Officer. According to the information received standing wheat crop covering about 4100 hectare is reported to have been damaged by hail and strong winds in Nainital, Champawat, Dehradun, Pithoragarh and Haridwar districts. Uniyal directed the Agriculture Director that information on the damage caused by hail and strong winds should be compiled and presented to the Union Agriculture Ministry of the Government of India.

He further instructed that the Agriculture Department and Forest Department should establish coordination and undertake joint efforts to facilitate the security of agricultural crops from raiding wild animals. Forest species especially of fruit bearing trees, plants, grasses and other components should be planted in the forest area for the wild animals. Further, in order to mitigate forest fire, the vacant land adjoining the agricultural land should be used to grow grasses and trees which provide food to the animals so that they

may not damage the crops in the farms. The Minister also directed the Agriculture Department and Forest Department to prepare an action plan for floral fencing all around the farm lands. The Minister also discussed various aspects of agriculture in the mountainous regions and issued instructions to the officials concerned for taking necessary measures to boost farming in the mountainous regions.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions//hail-damages-standing-wheat-crops-in-41000-ha-across-state-report.html>

Ample stocks drag down wheat futures by 1.03%

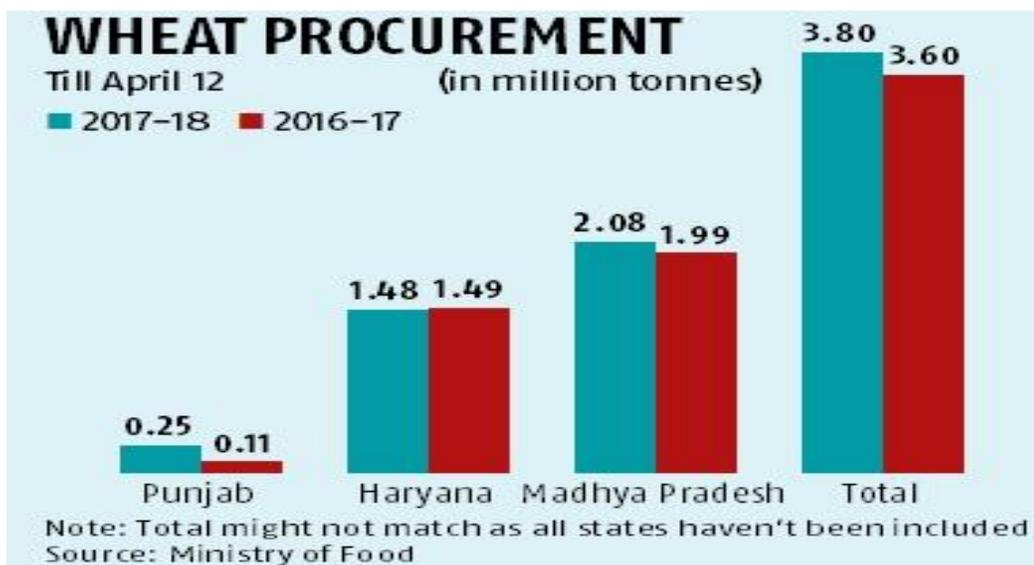
Wheat prices moved down by 1.03 per cent to Rs 1,640 per quintal in futures market today as speculators trimmed their positions, triggered by ample stocks position on increased supplies from growing regions at spot markets.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, wheat for delivery in May fell by Rs 17, or 1.03 per cent, to Rs 1,640 per quintal, with an open interest of 11,230 lots. However, wheat for delivery in April held steady at Rs 1,625 per quintal in 450 lots.

Analysts said trimming of positions by traders amid sufficient stocks position due to increased arrivals from producing regions in the physical market, mainly led to the fall in wheat prices at futures trade. PTI KPS SUN SRK

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/ample-stocks-drag-down-wheat-futures-by-1.03percent/1/931097.html>

Government's wheat procurement begins



Aiming at a higher procurement level compared to last many years, the government's wheat purchase drive for the ongoing rabi marketing season has commenced on a bright note.

Aiming at a higher procurement level compared to last many years, the government's wheat purchase drive for the ongoing rabi marketing season (2017-18) has commenced on a bright note with Food Corporation of India and state government agencies purchasing more than 3.1 million tonne (MT) of grain from farmers since April 1 against 2.8 MT of grain purchased during same period last year. However, while most of the wheat procurement so far has been reported from Madhya Pradesh (2 MT) and Haryana (1 MT), Punjab, which is expected to procure the largest quantity of grain amongst key producing states commenced purchase operations only a few days back.

Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh is aiming at a record 8.5 MT of wheat purchase from the farmers, which is more than double the volume the state had procured last year. According to Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, managing director, MP Civil Supplies Corporation, the state government is expected to purchase wheat from more than 11 lakh farmers and has set up more than 3,000 procurement centres for the purpose. For discouraging imports, the government last month had imposed an import duty of 10% on wheat in anticipation of higher arrivals in mandis in key growing states. The government had reduced customs duty on wheat to zero from 10% in December 2016 to increase availability in the market and control prices.

<http://www.financialexpress.com/market/commodities/governments-wheat-procurement-drive-begins/627546/>

Hailstorm and rain minimizes hopes of high yield of wheat

Hailstorm coupled with rain and strong cyclonic winds have dashed hopes of a bumper wheat crop this year in Punjab, causing damage to the crop in around 14,000 hectares in five districts, of which 3,500 hectares could suffer losses up to 50 per cent.

Experts said Thursday's rain was a big setback for farmers in the state, where harvesting has already begun. Met officials cited western disturbances from the north side as reasons for this untimely rain and hailstorm.

Since Wednesday night till Thursday evening, six districts of Patiala, Sangrur, Nawanshahr, Mukatsar, Fazilka, Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur witnessed hailstorm along with heavy rain in some areas. Apart from this, Faridkot and Patiala witnessed heavy rain,

21 mm and 19.2 mm, respectively. Besides, Pathankot witnessed 13.5 mm, Ropar 12 mm, Barnala 10 mm, Nawanshahr 9 mm, Moga and Ludhaina 8.6 and 6.8 mm of rainfall respectively.

Due to heavy hailstorm in Patiala, Sangrur, Mukatsar, Fazilka and Nawanshahr, wheat crop on around 14,000 hectares was damaged severely, as per a report by the state's agriculture department, which also said around 3,500 hectares in Patiala and Sangrur district was worst hit. Though lodging (bending of stems in green crops) was reported from across over state, the problem was acute in the districts of Amritsar, Faridkot, Firozpur, Moga, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ludhiana, Jalandhar and other districts which witnessed hailstorm. A visit to various parts of Jalandhar district revealed extensive lodging that could cause yield loss and poor grain quality.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/hailstorm-rain-dash-hopes-of-a-bumper-wheat-crop-4603237/>

IARI scientist developed climate change- resistant wheat variety

A new wheat variety that could address the threat to India's second largest crop from rising temperatures during critical grain-filling stage.

Every March practically, in recent times, has been abnormal. This year, it's turned out even more so. The month's first half saw northern India experience a mini cold wave. Minimum temperatures in the national capital ruled just over 9 degrees Celsius on Holi, which fell on March 13, against the normal of 15 degrees for that period. Tourists were pleasantly surprised to witness snowfall in Shimla and Manali, while Mussoorie celebrated its first "White Holi" since 1988.

Farmers sowed a record 31.56 million hectares (mh) under wheat this time, up from 29.25 mh in 2015-16 and the normal area of 30.17 mh. That was largely courtesy a good monsoon, which helped recharge the soil moisture and aquifer levels. The crop's overall growth — from germination, seedling development and tillering (production of multiple side stems from the initial parent shoot), to earhead emergence, flowering and early grain development — was also excellent, till the spike in temperatures from around March 21. For the wheat sown by November 15, the main grain-filling or 'dough' stage happens roughly after 120 days. During this phase from mid-March that can extend to 15 days — when starch matter from the leaves, stems and earhead gets transported and accumulates in the kernels — day temperatures should ideally be in the early-thirty degrees range.

Once that's over, the normal heat build-up from April dries up the moisture, making the grain hard and ripe for harvesting.

IARI has already supplied the seeds of HDCSW-18 to select farmers for planting in the current rabi season. "Most of them are getting over 70 quintals per hectare and have, in fact, harvested their crop by March-end without being affected by the heat wave," he adds.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/agriculture-and-climate-change-breeding-for-the-ides-of-march-4601291/>

Madhya Pradesh Farmer's gets more price for wheat than Minimum Support Price

FCI faces stiff competition from private entities in Madhya Pradesh on wheat procurement

Madhya Pradesh eyes second spot in wheat output FCI faces stiff competition from private players for wheat procurement Record wheat, foodgrain output likely in 2016-17 Centre to offload 1 mt wheat in open market. A long-lasting solution to the wheat rust problem. Food Corporation of India (FCI) faces stiff competition from private entities in Madhya Pradesh on wheat procurement.

The market price is presently above the government's Minimum Support Price (MSP). This has led the government-owned entity to set up camps near major harvesting centres, to ease farmers' transport and sale issues.

[FCI](#) says it had procured 3.99 million tonnes of wheat from [MP](#) in the 2016-17 rabi marketing season (RMS), 17.4 per cent of the 22.96 mt from across the country. For the RMS of 2017-18, the government's target for [FCI](#) in the state is 8.5 mt. This, the official felt, would not be achieved, with private agencies offering a higher price.

[FCI](#) thinks it should be able to reach eight mt in [MP](#) and two mt (the official target is three mt) for Uttar Pradesh.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/in-madhya-pradesh-market-rates-for-wheat-soar-past-govt-s-support-price-117040500057_1.html

Haryana makes arrangements for wheat procurement

The Haryana Government has made adequate arrangements for the smooth procurement of 75 lakh tonnes of wheat during the Rabi procurement season, which would commence from April 1. The Minister of State for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Karan Dev Kamboj said that the produce would be procured by all five Government procurement agencies at minimum support price of `1,625 per quintal.

The government has already requested for CCL arrangement of Rs. 4,900 crore to the Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai for making payment to farmers for the purchase of produce, said he. Kamboj said that allocation of share for procurement of wheat had also been made among the Government procuring agencies. While Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department and HAFED would procure 33 per cent each, Haryana Warehousing Corporation and Food Corporation of India were allocated 12 per cent share each and Haryana Agro Industries Corporation would procure 10 per cent of the arrival.

He added that sufficient quantity of gunny bags were available with all the government agencies for procurement of wheat. Labour and transport arrangements have also been made in all mandis of the State.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/chandigarh/haryana-makes-arrangements-for-wheat-procurement.html>

Import duty to affect wheat procurement in Punjab, Haryana

"Over the years the trading activity in wheat has eliminated in the two states due to higher taxes and well established infrastructure of government agencies for procurement," Naresh Ghai, president of Punjab Roller Flour Mills Association said.

Private flour millers in Punjab and Haryana feel the 10 per cent import duty will have little impact on wheat procurement for public distribution system while private buying of the cereal will remain limited due to lack of trading infrastructure and higher levy in the two-states. The procurement for public distribution system is expected to be better than the last year in the two-states due to favourable weather this year.

The wheat procurement season set to commence on 1 April in the two states. A higher procurement is expected to replenish depleting stock of Food Corporation of India. A

target of 33 million tonne wheat has been set for the current procurement season, higher by 43 per cent over the last corresponding season. The procurement missed target due to scanty rains in the last year and stood at 22.96 million tonnes. The procurement figure stood at in Punjab and Haryana stood at 104.44 lakh tonnes and 67.78 lakh tonnes respectively in 15-16 Rabi season.

The centre government had fixed minimum support price of Rs 1,625 per quintal of wheat for the current season. This year Haryana is expecting around 75 lakh tonnes of wheat during the Rabi procurement season and procurement is expected to higher in Punjab as well.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/import-duty-unlikely-to-affect-wheat-procurement-in-punjab-haryana/articleshow/57944340.cms>