

## Crop prospects – 2002-03

8.6 The shadow of drought loomed heavily on this year's outcome of kharif crops. (Box 8.2). The foodgrain production in 2002-03 is likely to be lower, estimated at 183.2 million tonnes compared to last year's production of 212.02 million tonnes (fall of 13.6 percent). The sharp fall in current year's foodgrain output, which is the lowest since 1996-97, is mainly due to the decline in Kharif production from 111.5 million tonnes last year to 90.3 million tonnes in the current year (fall of 19.09 percent). The Rabi foodgrain production is also likely to drop to 92.9 million tonnes compared to last year's 100.5 million tonnes – a drop of 7.5 percent.

8.7 Rice production in the current year is likely to be 77.7 million tonnes (93.1 million tonnes last year) and wheat production is likely to be 68.9 million tonnes (71.8 million tonnes last year). There is also a large decline likely in production of coarse cereals to 25 million tonnes (34 million tonnes last year). Pulses production too is likely to drop to 11.5 million tonnes from 13.2 million tonnes last year. (Table 8.4).

8.8 Effect of drought on oilseeds is expected to be severe and production may fall to 15.4 million tonnes from last year's production of 20.5 million tonnes. Groundnut and soyabean, the two important kharif oilseeds, are expected to register a fall of 2.2 million tonnes and 1.6 million tonnes respectively over last year. Rapeseed/Mustard, the

### Box 8.2 : Kharif output in drought years

Low rainfall years in the past have always adversely affected kharif crop production. The magnitude of decline in production has varied depending upon the severity of the drought. The current year's fall of 19.1 percent in kharif output compared to earlier poor rainfall years is the highest ever fall since 1972-73. This is explained by the lowest ever rainfall received in July (49 percent fall), which is normally the rainiest month of the season and most crucial month for kharif crops.

Deficient rainfall years	Monsoon rainfall (percentage departure from normal)	Rainfall in July (percentage departure from normal)	Kharif foodgrain production (percentage fall)
1972-73	-24	-31	-6.9
1974-75	-12	-4	-12.9
1979-80	-19	-16	-19.0
1982-83	-14	-23	-11.9
1986-87	-13	-14	-5.9
1987-88	-19	-29	-7.0
2002-03	-19	-49	-19.1

principal rabi oilseed is also like to decline by about 1 million tonnes as compared to the previous year. Sugarcane production at 285.4 million tonnes would also be less by 14.7 million tonnes (4.9 percent fall). While jute & mesta production at 11.5 million bales fared better as severity of drought was not felt in West Bengal and Bihar; cotton production in the affected States – Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab - has suffered and at best only 8.9 million bales (11.9 percent fall) may be realised this year (Table 8.5).

**Table 8.4: Foodgrains production**

(million tonnes)

Crop	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03*
Rice	81.7	82.5	86.1	89.7	84.9	93.1	77.7
Wheat	69.4	66.4	71.3	76.4	68.8	71.8	68.9
Coarse Cereals	34.1	30.4	31.3	30.3	31.6	33.9	25.1
Pulses	14.2	13.0	14.9	13.4	10.7	13.2	11.5
<b>Foodgrains</b>							
Kharif	103.9	101.6	102.9	105.5	103.4	111.5	90.3
Rabi	95.5	90.7	100.7	104.3	92.5	100.5	92.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>199.4</b>	<b>192.3</b>	<b>203.6</b>	<b>209.8</b>	<b>195.9</b>	<b>212.0</b>	<b>183.2</b>

\* Second advance estimates

Source : Ministry of Agriculture.

**Table 8.5 : Commercial crop production***(million tonnes)*

<b>Crop</b>	<b>1996-97</b>	<b>1997-98</b>	<b>1998-99</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2002-03@</b>
Groundnut	8.6	7.4	9.0	5.3	6.2	6.9	4.7
Rapeseed/ Mustard	6.7	4.7	5.7	5.8	4.2	5.0	4.5
Soyabean	5.4	6.5	7.1	7.1	5.3	5.9	4.3
Other oilseeds	3.7	2.7	3.0	2.5	2.7	2.7	1.9
<b>Total nine oilseeds</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>15.4</b>
Cotton*	14.2	10.9	12.3	11.5	9.7	10.1	8.9
Jute & Mesta**	11.1	11.0	9.8	10.6	10.5	11.6	11.5
Sugarcane	277.6	279.5	288.7	299.3	299.2	300.1	285.4

\*Million bales of 170 kgs each

\*\* Million bales of 180 kgs each

@Second advance estimates

Source : Ministry of Agriculture.