

Groundnut output pegged at 33L tonnes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Despite the area under groundnut cultivation in the state decreasing this kharif season, production of the oilseed is expected to increase by 4.5% in 2021-22, mainly due to improved yield.

The state's groundnut output is estimated to rise to 33.44 lakh tonnes in 2021-22 from 32 lakh tonne in 2020-21, according to projections by the Gujarat State Edible Oils and Oil Seeds Association (SEOO-SA). Gujarat is the largest producer of groundnut in India.

Rajkot district is likely to harvest the most groundnut, with 5 lakh tonnes followed by Junagadh (4.21 lakh tonnes), Devbhumi Dwarka (3.82 lakh tonnes), Amreli (3.5 lakh tonnes) and Jamnagar (3.22 lakh tonnes).

The groundnut acreage in the state declined by 7.51% to 19.10 lakh hectares this kharif season from 20.65 lakh hectares last year, the latest data from the state agriculture department shows.

"Although the area under cultivation was lower this year, production is going to increase as there has been an improvement in yield," said Sameer Shah, president, Gujarat State Edible Oils and Oil Seeds Association (GSEOOOSA).

According to the trade body, yield will likely improve to 280-300kg

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per bigha from 240-260kg last year. "Production could have been even better if heavy rains had not damaged the crop recently," Shah added.

Arrivals of the crop has begun with North Gujarat seeing a good amount of groundnut crop at market yards.

"A large number of farmers in Gujarat continued with groundnut this year also because they got very good prices for their produce," added Shah.

The prices of groundnut hovered above the minimum support price (MSP) following robust demand for groundnut oil from China last year, market experts said.

With groundnut production in Gujarat set to rise, overall production of the oilseed in India will likely range between 55 lakh tonnes and 60 lakh tonnes in 2020-21.

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