

Wheat sowing area down by 23%; Punjab, MP laggards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 15 November

Wheat sowing continued to lag by 23 per cent at 32.98 lakh hectares in the ongoing rabi (winter) season so far compared to the previous season due to a significantly lower coverage in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh, according to the Agriculture Ministry's data released on Friday.

Area sown to most rabi crops remained lower in this rabi season, which begins from October. Wheat, the main rabi crop, was sown in 3.29 million hectare area so far this season as



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against 4.28 hectare in the year ago period, the data showed.

Total wheat area was lower as the crop in Punjab was sown in only 781,000 hectare so far

in the current rabi season against 14.68 lakh hectare in the last season.

In Madhya Pradesh, farmers planted wheat crop in 534,000 hectare area this year so far against 920,000 hectare in the last year.

Among other rabi crops, area under pulses remained lower at 4.56 million hectare against 5.42 million hectare, while that of oilseeds at 4.61 million hectare against 4.73 million hectare in the year-ago period.

Rice was sown in 627,000 hectare area so far this season against 651,000 hectare in the year-ago period.