At 305 mt, this year’s horticulture output a tad higher; still a record

Veggie output up

While the production of vegetables was higher than the last projections, that of fruits and spices dipped slightly.

Among major vegetables, the output of tomatoes, whose price soared during the year, is expected to grow by mere 1 per cent to 49.3 mt. Production of onion, on the other hand, is projected to drop by 4.5 per cent to 21.4 mt (22.4 mt).

Mangoes, the second highest grown fruit in the country after bananas, are set for a notable 6.2 per cent increase in production to 20.7 mt (19.5 mt).

There will be a slight increase in the production of citrus fruits too — 11.7 mt against 11.4 mt in the previous year. The output of bananas, on the contrary, is expected to edge down to 30.2 mt (30.5 mt).

Other crops

The total acreage under horticultural crops increased slightly to 24.92 million hectares (mh) from 24.85 mh in 2016-17.

The area under fruits cultivation registered a minor increase to 6.43 mh from 6.37 mh, the area under vegetables shrank 10.17 mh from 10.24 mh last year.

Production of flowers, plantation crops such as coconut, arecanut and cashew, besides spice crops such as garlic, chilli, ginger and turmeric among others are also seen rising marginally this year.