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## Kharif foodgrain output may hit record 150 MT this year

**THE COUNTRY'S FOOD-GRAIN** production is likely to touch a new record of over 150 million tonnes in the Kharif season of the 2021-22 crop year (July-June) due to good rains, Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal said on Monday.

Sowing of Kharif (summer)

crops like paddy will get over by the end of this month. Harvesting in most of the parts will commence from October.

"We have received good rains so far this year. Total Kharif foodgrain production was 149.56 million tonnes last year as per the fourth estimate. As there is likely to be an

increase in area under pulses and paddy, foodgrain production will definitely be much higher than last year's Kharif season," Agarwal told reporters.

The Agriculture Ministry is expecting foodgrain production to be more than 150 million tonnes in the Kharif sea-

son this year, higher than 149.56 million tonnes achieved in the same season of the 2020-21 crop year.

The first estimate of the country's overall foodgrain production for this Kharif season will be released around September 15, he added.

—PTI

**₹491 cr released to Haryana, UP, Punjab to tackle stubble burning:** Funds of around ₹491 crore have been released to three states of Punjab Haryana and Uttar Pradesh ahead of harvesting of Kharif crops for tackling the stubble burning issue, Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal said on Monday.

A meeting with representatives of Punjab and Haryana gov-

ernments will be held soon in this regard, he said. The stubble burning in northern India has long been a major cause of air pollution even as the central government has spent ₹2,245.17 crore to address this issue in the last four years. Agarwal said the states have also been asked to allow gram sabhas to open custom hiring centres so that small farmers can have access to machines.

—PTI