

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5163

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012

SOWING OF CROPS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a significant reduction in the sowing of different crops has been registered in most parts of the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, crop-wise alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the above issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Depending upon the rainfall situation, weather aberrations, risk factors, profitability of crops, farmers perception, comparative profitability and marketing facilities etc., the State-wise area coverage under different crops in the country during the last few years has been varying. However, as indicated in the table below, the overall area coverage under major crops viz. rice, wheat, pulses, foodgrains and cotton during 2011-12 has been higher than the area under these crops during 2006-07.

(Lakh hectares)

Crop 2006-07 2011-12# Increase (+)/decrease
(-) in area

Rice	438.14	440.74	2.60
Wheat	279.95	298.22	18.27
Coarse Cereals	287.08	266.22	-20.86
Pulses	231.92	262.24	30.32
Foodgrains	1237.08	1267.42	30.34
Oilseeds	265.13	264.83	-0.30
Sugarcane	51.51	50.99	-0.52
Cotton	91.45	121.78	30.33

3rd advance estimates released on 23.04.2012

(c): To increase production of major crops in the country through area expansion and enhancement in productivity, Government of India has been implementing several crop development schemes/programmers such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems (SUBCAS), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Technology Mission on Cotton etc. During bad monsoon years, the States are also advised to implement contingency Plans to minimize the impact of drought on area coverage and production.

In order to encourage farmers to increase area coverage and production, the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural crops have also been increased significantly.