



Horticultural production in India estimated at record 307 million tons

Production of perishable horticulture crops reached a record 307 million tons in 2017-18, according to advance estimates released on Monday by the Indian Agriculture Ministry. The latest estimates are an upward revision from the 305.4 million tons estimated in January, and about 2.2% more than the 300.6 million tons produced the year before (2016-17).

In 2017-18, the area under different horticulture crops grew 2.2% year on year to 25.4 million hectares.

Among major horticulture crops, production of fruits rose from 92.9 million tonnes in 2016-17 to 94.4 million tons in 2017-18, while production of different vegetables rose from 178 million tons to 182 million tons.

In vegetables, production of tomatoes and potatoes rose year on year while that of onions fell during the year, the data showed. While tomato production rose by 6.6% to 22 million tons in 2017-18, that of potatoes rose from 48.6 million tons in 2016-17 to 50.3 million tons in 2017-18. Production of onions fell from 22.4 million tons to 21.8 million tons during this period.

In an article on livemint.com it was however stressed that price volatility continues to be a major risk for horticulture farmers due to poor processing and cold chain facilities. Over the past year, farmers in several states dumped their tomato, onion and potato crops as wholesale prices plunged beneath production and transport costs.

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