

Sugar exports at record 7.1 MT in 2020-21: Isma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, October 1

INDIA'S SUGAR EXPORT rose 20% to an all-time high of 7.1 million tonne in the 2020-21 marketing year ended last month on the back of better demand and financial assistance from the government, industry body ISMA said on Friday.

Sugar exports stood at 5.9 million tonne in the 2019-20 marketing year (October-September). Addressing a sugar conference, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) Director General Abinash Verma said sugar production is estimated to remain flat at 31 million tonne in the 2021-22 marketing year, starting Friday.

The total availability of sugar is estimated to touch 39.5 million tonne, including

an opening stock of 8.5 million tonne of sweetener, he said.

The domestic consumption is estimated at 26.5 million tonne while exports are estimated at 6 million tonne, Verma said, adding that the closing stock would be 7 million tonne at the end of this marketing year.

The ISMA DG pointed out that India witnessed cyclical sugar production till 2009-10 but "India has now become structural surplus sugar producer in the last 10 years".

Talking about ethanol, Verma said annual production capacity is expected to reach 14 billion litres by 2025 from 3.5 billion litres of annual capacity in 2018.

He said the target is to divert 6 million tonne of surplus sugar to ethanol by 2025.

