

Sugar output may drop to 30.5 MT with more cane diversion to ethanol

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INDIA'S SUGAR PRODUCTION is likely to decline marginally to 30.5 million tonne (MT) in the 2021-22 season as more sugarcane will be diverted for ethanol making, a senior government official said on Monday. Sugar production is estimated to have reached 31 MT in the 2020-21 season (October-September), he said.

"Sugarcane crop by and large is good this year. We are

expecting diversion of more cane for ethanol making and as a result sugar production will be slightly lower at 30.5 MT during 2021-22 season," joint secretary in the food ministry Subodh Kumar Singh said.

In the current season, cane meant for production of 2 MT of sugar was diverted for ethanol making, while in the 2021-22 season, cane meant for production of 3.5 million tonne of sugar will be diverted, he said.

However, sugar production

will be sufficient to meet the domestic consumption, which is expected to increase by 3,00,000-4,00,000 tonne at 26.3-26.5 million tonne in 2021-22 season, Singh said.

The domestic consumption in the 2020-21 season is estimated to be 26 million tonne.

While the likely opening stock of sweetener is estimated at 9-9.5 million tonne and expected production at 30.5 million tonne, the total availability of sugar in the 2021-22 season will be 39.5 to 40 MT.

