

Sugar output to decline by 8% to 33.7 MT: ISMA

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New Delhi, October 31

INDIA'S GROSS SUGAR production is estimated to decline 8% to 33.7 million tonne (MT) in the 2023-24 season (October-September) compared to previous season, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said on Tuesday in the first advance estimate of the output. ISMA said sugar production this season will be sufficient to meet annual domestic consumption, estimated at around 27.8 MT. The area under sugarcane in the country is estimated to be around 5.7 million hectares in the 2023-24 season.

However, the trade body



said the projected output includes the diversion of sugar towards ethanol production, and the quantity of output

diverted for ethanol in the current season will be declared only after the announcement of the procurement price for ethanol supply year 2023-24 (December-October).

Trade sources had earlier said around 4.5 MT of sugar would be diverted to ethanol production in the current season. This would mean that after the allocation, hardly any sugar would be available for exports.

In the 2022-23 season, 6 MT of sugar was exported. The government recently extended restrictions on raw, white, refined and organic sugar exports beyond October 31 till further order.