

Sugarcane plantings up 7.6% at 44.1 lakh hectares

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Sugarcane acreage was at 44.1 lakh hectares as of Wednesday, up 7.6 per cent from 41. lakh hectares (lh) a year ago, data released by the Agriculture Ministry showed.

The current acreage is also higher than 42.4 lh which is the normal level for the period. Normal area for the entire season is 50.3 lh.

In Uttar Pradesh – the largest cane producer in the country – sowing was completed over 21.8 lh, up 20.4 per cent from the previous year.

Cane acreage has taken a hit in Maharashtra – the largest sugar-producing State – this year, with acreage falling 7.2 per cent

on year to 762,000 hectares. In Karnataka, cane acreage so far was up six per cent from the previous year, while in Tamil Nadu, it was up 1.2 per cent.

The Agriculture Ministry has targeted 355 million tonnes of sugarcane output for 2016-17 (July-June).

According to the third advance estimates of the farm ministry, India's sugarcane output in 2015-16 is estimated at 346.7 million tonnes – down from 362.3 million tonnes a year ago.

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