

Cotton output may range between 312 and 335 lakh bales of 170 kg each,

despite dip in area

Daily arrivals exceeding 1 lakh bales, prices trend below MSP of ₹8,100 a quintal

By Vishwanath Kulkarni

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The carry-forward stocks for 2025-26 season are estimated at 60.59 lakh bales over corresponding last year's 39.19 lakh bales on higher imports | Photo Credit: NAGARA GOPAL

India's cotton output for the 2025-26 season starting October is likely to be between 312 and 335 lakh bales of 170 kg each, despite a dip in area and fears of excess rain hurting production in some regions.

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Arrivals of the new crop have picked up this week across various States with the daily arrivals estimated at over 1 lakh bales and prices of raw cotton are trending below the minimum support price (MSP) levels on weak demand.

The carry-forward stocks for 2025-26 season are estimated at 60.59 lakh bales over 39.19 lakh bales a year ago due to higher imports.

Atul S Ganatra, President, Cotton Association of India (CAI), said the 2025-26 crop is in good condition and the official crop estimates will be announced in the last week of October. All the 10 State associations feel that the crop is good. A minimum crop size of 312 lakh bales of 170 kgs each and maximum of 335 lakh bales can be expected with Gujarat and Maharashtra likely to report higher yields. "We have called for a meeting to estimate the new crop in the last week of October," he said.