

## **CO-OP SUGAR BODY PROJECTS 35 MT OUTPUT NEXT SEASON**

THE National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF) on Monday said this year's closing stock of sugar on September 30 will likely be 4.87 million tonnes (mt), which is adequate to meet the first two months' demand in the next season as the production in the 2025-26 season (October-September) is likely to be 35 mt.

"As per current projections, the closing stock of sugar at the end of the 2024-25 season is estimated at approximately 4.87 mt. This stock level is considered adequate to meet domestic consumption requirements for the crucial months of October and November 2025, ensuring price stability and uninterrupted supply," the NFCSF said in a statement.

However, it did not rule out a 2 per cent margin of error in the calculations while arriving at the closing stock as the data are based on information derived from the monthly release orders issued by the government and information furnished by the sugar mills.

### **PRICES STABLE**

The cooperative body also said that currently the ex-mill sugar prices remain stable at ₹3,880-3,920 per quintal. This stability is supported by timely government interventions like permission for limited sugar exports and controlled release of monthly domestic quota, which have effectively balanced supply in the domestic market even though there was lower net production and strong market demand.

Projecting a strong recovery in production during the 2025-26 season, with estimated gross sugar output of about 35mt, Harshvardhan Patil, President of NFCSF, said: "This anticipated rebound is due to favourable monsoon conditions and increased cane cultivation in key producing States such as Maharashtra and Karnataka."

The statement said that sugar production had reached 28.69 mt as of April 30 during the ongoing 2024-25 season, of which 3 mt had been diverted for ethanol.

The Centre's announcement of increased fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane for the next season helped farmers to opt for cultivation of the cash crop, he added.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on April 30 approved a hike of ₹15/quintal in the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane to ₹355/quintal for the next sugar season, beginning October.

The industry body had also sought a revision in ethanol procurement prices by oil marketing companies (OMCs) and suggested extension of blending targets beyond 20 per cent.

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