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February 25, 2020

Topic:- Agriculture

News:-Area under cotton crop to go up by 25 pc, say, officials.

- State Agriculture Department has decided to increase the area under cotton crop by 25 per cent.
- The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) had started to purchase cotton directly from farmers in 2019-20 crop season at a minimum support price of Rs5,450 per quintal.

Sutantar Kumar Airi, the director, Agriculture Department, said:-

- In 2019-20 crop season, the area brought under the cotton crop was more than what was targeted. This year, we have decided to increase the area under the crop to 5 lakh hectares, that is, by nearly 25 per cent.
- In 2019, some agricultural experts had said it was impossible to reach the revised target of 4 lakh

hectares. Initially, the department had fixed a target of 3.2 lakh hectares. During 2019-20 crop season, a total of 3.92 lakh hectares was brought under the crop in the state.

Why are farmers returning back to cotton?

- In 2015, per hectare yield was just 142 kg, 807 kg in 2016, 868 kg in 2017, 879 kg in 2018 and 897 kg in 2019. "Due to the increased yield, farmers are returning to cotton cultivation.
- Further, the crop consumes less water and provides more employment.

(Source:- The Tribune)

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Punjab PCS --> See Second (Regular Quiz)

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