

Tobacco prices top ₹200/kg on lower output projections

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Tobacco auctions in Karnataka are off to a good start for the 2022-23 marketing season with prices opening higher by nine per cent over the previous year on an anticipated shortfall in production in the State.

The auctions, which began on Monday in all the 10 platforms, have raised hopes among the growers of a better season ahead. There are two tobacco auction platforms in Ramanathapura, three in Periyapatna, two in Kampalapura, two in Hunsur and one in HD Kote.

WEATHER IMPACT

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2022-23 season — 14 per cent higher than 88 mkg last season.

“The production is considerably low this year. The target given to farmers was 100 million kg this year, but we are expecting an actual crop of around 60 million kgs as excess rains have im-

acted the output this year,” BV Javare Gowda, President, Federation of Karnataka Virginia Tobacco Growers Association in Periyapatna, Mysuru, said. The opening prices are ₹202 per kg compared with ₹185 per kg last season, he said.

“Excess rains have impacted the yield. Plants couldn’t consume the fertilisers applied, resulting in leeching out of the nutrients,” said Gowda, also the former vice-chairman of Tobacco Board.

“There will be lot of competition among the buyers this year resulting in higher prices. Compared with the previous years and looking at the lower production, growers’ hopes of a good season are high and are expecting prices to rise to ₹250-300 per kg,” Gowda said.