

## Commercial Crops

### Oilseeds

8.13 There are nine major oilseeds namely groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, soyabean, sunflower, rapeseed/mustard, linseed and safflower. Of these, groundnut, rapeseed and mustard and soyabean occupy commanding position in terms of total production. During 1999-2000, groundnut is likely to account for 27 per cent, rapeseed and mustard 28 per cent and soyabean 30 per cent of total oilseeds production in the country. The three oilseeds together contribute about 85 per cent of country's oilseeds production besides coconut, which is not included in the oilseeds as it is a tree crop. The details of important oilseeds and also other commercial crops during the last four years and estimated production during 1999-2000, is shown in the Table 8.7.

### Cotton

8.14 The overall production of cotton during 1999-2000 is estimated at 12.1 million bales compared to 12.2 million bales last year. Thus, the production of cotton remains more or less at the same level as of last year.

### Sugarcane and Sugar

8.15 The production of sugarcane has come out of cyclic aberration and is likely to post a new record production level of 315.1 million tonnes during 1999-2000 compared to 295.7 million tonnes achieved during last year. This may push up sugar production from 15.5 million tonnes achieved in sugar year October 1998 - September 1999.

Year	Sugarcane			Sugar
	Area	Production	Yield	(Lakh tonnes)
	(Million hectare)	(Million tonnes)	(Kg/Hectare)	
1950-51	1.7	57.1	33422	11
1960-61	2.4	110.0	45549	30
1970-71	2.6	126.4	48322	37
1980-81	2.7	154.2	57844	51
1990-91	3.7	241.0	65395	121
1998-99	4.1	295.7	72560	155
1999-2000*	4.2	315.1	75024	165
* Provisional				

8.16 Record production of 16.4 million tonnes of sugar in 1995-96 has not been rivaled so far. Production declined in 1996-97 to 12.9 million tonnes mainly due to fall in sugarcane production and did not improve in sugar season of 1997-98 when production was 12.8 million tonnes. An estimated sugar output of 15.5 million tonnes last year has helped in building up a large carry over stock for the next year beginning October 1999 and, if next year's production rises to 16.5 million tonnes, the domestic availability and prices could remain stable (Table 8.8).

### Jute and Mesta

8.17 Production of jute and mesta has been fluctuating between 8 and 13 million bales. In 1998-99, the combined production of jute and mesta was 9.7 million bales which is likely to increase to 10.6 million bales, of which production of jute alone may be around 9.6 million bales.

Crop	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 @
Groundnut	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.2	5.9
Rapeseed/Mustard	6.0	6.7	4.7	5.8	6.1
Soyabean	5.1	5.4	6.5	6.9	6.5
Other six Oilseeds	3.4	3.7	2.8	3.3	3.1
<b>Total nine Oilseeds</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>21.6</b>
Cotton*	12.9	14.2	10.9	12.2	12.1
Jute & Mesta**	8.8	11.1	11.0	9.7	10.6
Sugarcane	281.1	277.6	279.5	295.7	315.1
* Million bales of 170 Kgs each		** Million bales of 180 Kgs each		@ Estimated.	