

Tobacco Board cuts AP crop size by 15%

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Guntur: With global demand for tobacco at an all-time low in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian Tobacco Board has slashed the crop size for Andhra Pradesh to 115 million kg.

A meeting of the board's governing council held here on Tuesday decided to cut the crop size by nearly 15%. This is nearly 21 million kg less than the crop size allowed during the last season.

The board meeting was chaired by chairman Yadlapati Raghunatha Babu. "The indents given by manufacturers and exporters through Indian Tobacco Association (ITA) and problems faced by growers for sale of tobacco due to Covid-19 and poor international demand were taken into consideration in fixing the crop size," said Raghunatha Babu.

Growers have faced hardship during the current season as traders have been reluctant to buy. Sales picked up after chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy deputed AP Markfed to buy stocks three weeks ago.

While the Northern Black Soils (NBS) region was given a quota of 3.21 million kg (mkg), Northern Light Soils (NLS) was spared 40.45 mkg. Similarly, Southern Light Soils (SLS) got 37.91 mkg and Southern Black Soils (SBS) 33.43 mkg.

Tobacco-growing areas are classified into different regions based on soil and the crop quota. The NLS region spread over West Godavari district is known for high-quality produce.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/tobacco-board-cuts-ap-crop-size-by-15/articleshow/77620980.cms>