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## Food Irradiation | Uttar Pradesh | 03 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

The government of India **plans to use radiation processing (Food Irradiation)** to extend the shelf life of a 100,000 tonne **onion buffer stock** in 2024, **aiming to prevent shortages and price hikes.**

- India, a major onion exporter, is **facing a 16% decline in onion output for the 2023-24 season**, bringing production down to an estimated 25.47 million tonnes.

### Key Points

- Food irradiation is the **process of exposing food and food products to ionising radiation, such as gamma rays, electron beams, or X-rays.**
  - In India, irradiated food is regulated in accordance with the **Atomic Energy (Control of Irradiation of Food) Rules, 1996.**
- **Significance:**
  - It is used in food processing to help ensure food safety.
  - Seasonal overstocking and long transport times lead to food waste.
  - India's hot, humid climate is a breeding ground for spoilage-causing insects and microbes.
  - Seafood, meat, and poultry can harbour harmful bacteria and parasites that make people sick.

### Onion Production in India

- India is the **second-largest (after China) onion-growing country** in the world, famous for its pungent onions available year-round.
- **Major Onion Producing States:**
  - Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu are the major onion-producing states.
  - **Maharashtra ranks first in Onion production** with a share of 42.53% followed by Madhya Pradesh with a share of 15.16% in 2021-22 (3rd Advance Estimate).
- **Export Destination:** Major export destinations of Indian onion include Bangladesh, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

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## India to Import Wheat After 6 years | Uttar Pradesh | 03 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

India, the **world's second-largest wheat producer**, **plans to begin wheat imports after a six-year gap** to replenish depleted reserves and control rising prices, driven by three consecutive years of

disappointing crops.

## Key Points

- India's wheat production has **declined in the last 3 years due to unfavourable weather conditions**, leading to a sharp drop in wheat output.
- The government **estimates this year's wheat crop to be 6.25% lower than the previous year's (2023)** record production of 112 million metric tons.
- The government's **target for wheat procurement the year 2024 was 30-32 million metric tons**, but it has managed to buy only 26.2 million tons so far.
- Domestic wheat prices have stayed above the government's [minimum support price \(MSP\)](#) of 2,275 rupees per 100 kg and **have been on the rise recently**.
  - So, the government **decided to remove the 40% import duty on wheat to allow private traders** and flour millers to import wheat, primarily from Russia.

## Wheat

- This is the **second most important cereal crop in India after rice** and main food crop, in the north and north-western part of the country.
- **Wheat is a rabi crop** that requires a cool growing season and bright sunshine at the time of ripening.
  - **Success of the Green Revolution contributed to the growth of Rabi crops**, especially wheat.
- **Top 3 Wheat Producers in World (2021):** China, India and Russia.
- **Top 3 Wheat Producers in India (in 2021-22):** Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab
- **Government Initiatives:**
  - Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, [National Food Security Mission](#) and [Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana](#) etc.

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# Major Wheat Producing States

