

# 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. Jision
- 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.

# 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.

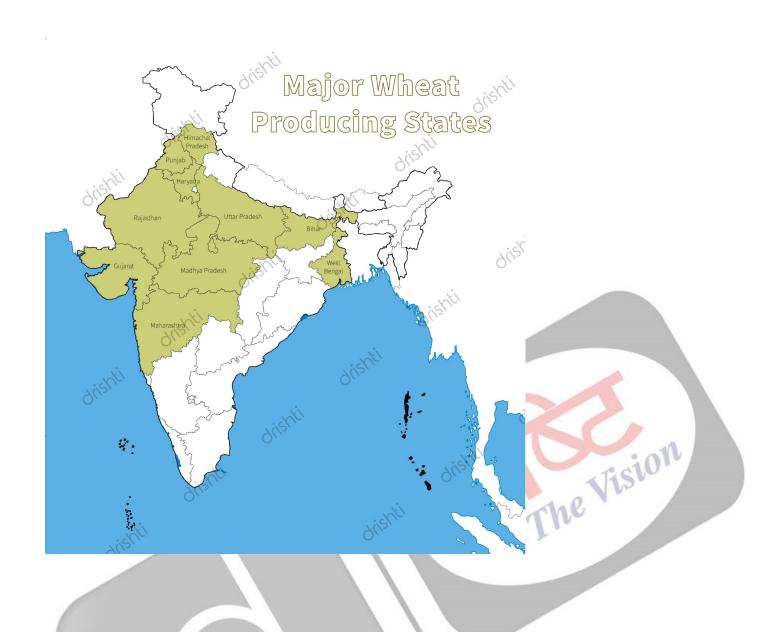
### **Key Points**

- 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 <u>cereal crop</u> in India after rice and main food crop, in the north and north-western part of the country.
- Wheat is a <u>rabi crop</u> that requires a cool growing season and bright sunshine at the time of ripening.
  - Success of the <u>Green Revolution</u> contributed to the growth of <u>Rabi</u> 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, <u>National Food Security Mission</u> and <u>Rashtriya</u> <u>Krishi Vikas Yojana</u> etc.





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