



Horticulture Yield Declining in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

In 2023, **extreme weather events in Uttarakhand** resulted in the **loss of 44,882 hectares of farmlands**. As **agricultural opportunities diminish**, many **people are migrating** from the hills to the plains, potentially **causing a decrease** in the area dedicated to [horticultural production](#).

Key Points

- The **variations in the area of fruit production** in Uttarakhand between 2016-17 and 2022-23 reveal striking shifts in cultivation patterns across different fruit types.
 - The increase in guava and gooseberry cultivation indicates a shift in focus towards fruit types better attuned to market demand or local conditions.
 - The yields of pear, peach, apricot, plum, walnut and apple have markedly decreased in the last seven years due to the significant impact of global warming on Uttarakhand's horticulture.
- **Uttarakhand has experienced frequent disasters** such as heavy rainfall, floods, hailstorms, and landslides, leading to substantial destruction of agricultural lands and crops.
 - The increasing temperatures are adversely affecting the cultivation of winter fruits, prompting farmers to switch to tropical options.
- According to [Indian Council of Agricultural Research \(ICAR\)-Indian Agricultural Research Institute \(IARI\)](#), the short-term variability and trends in temperature are worrying and there is a need to study the long-term trends in weather variables and its relation to yield, especially, its relation with any change in crop/cropping pattern or shift in crop/cropping pattern.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- It was established on **16 July 1929** as a **registered society** under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- It is an **autonomous organisation** under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, Government of India.
- It is **headquartered at New Delhi**. With 102 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities spread across the country this is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world.
- It is the **apex body** for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country