



Kharif Crops Destroyed in Bihar | Bihar | 21 Aug 2024

Why in News?

According to the sources, **Farmers in northern Bihar** are facing **severe crop damage** due to **unexpected late-season floods** that have submerged thousands of acres of standing crops, **including paddy and vegetables**.

Key Points

- Floodwaters have spread across hundreds of villages in districts like **Madhepura, Supaul, Saharsa, Madhubani, and Bhagalpur**, submerging vast stretches of farmland.
 - The rising water levels in the **Kosi and Ganga rivers**, as well as the **Burhi Gandak and Gandak rivers**, have caused significant flooding and crop damage.
- The **floods have displaced many people**, forcing them to live in isolated villages cut off from nearby markets and offices.
 - Also caused a **shortage of both green and dry fodder for animals**, further exacerbating the hardship faced by affected communities.
- Despite the widespread destruction there is a lack of response from **Bihar Disaster Management Department**.
- Flooding is not a new phenomenon in Bihar, affecting thousands of people annually, particularly in the **Ganga, Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati, and Mahananda river basins**.
 - **Bihar** is the **most flood-prone state in India**, with around 6.88 million hectares of the state's total area of 9.41 million hectares classified as **vulnerable to flooding**.

Flood

- It is an **overflowing of water onto land that is normally dry**. Floods can happen during heavy rains, when ocean waves come on shore, when snow melts quickly, or when dams or levees break.
- Damaging flooding may happen with only a few inches of water, or it may cover a house to the rooftop. Floods **can occur within minutes or over a long period, and may last days, weeks, or longer**. Floods are the **most common and widespread of all weather-related natural disasters**.
- **Flash floods** are the **most dangerous kind of floods**, because **they combine the destructive power of a flood with incredible speed**.
 - Flash floods occur **when heavy rainfall exceeds the ability of the ground to absorb it**.
 - They also occur **when water fills normally dry creeks or streams or enough water accumulates for streams to overtop their banks**, causing rapid rises of water in a short amount of time.
 - They can **happen within minutes of the causative rainfall**, limiting the time available to warn and protect the public.