



Haryana-Punjab Agricultural Divergence

Why in News?

Haryana's agriculture stands apart from Punjab due to its [diversified cropping](#) profile, contrasting with Punjab's environmentally and fiscally unsustainable [rice-wheat monoculture](#).

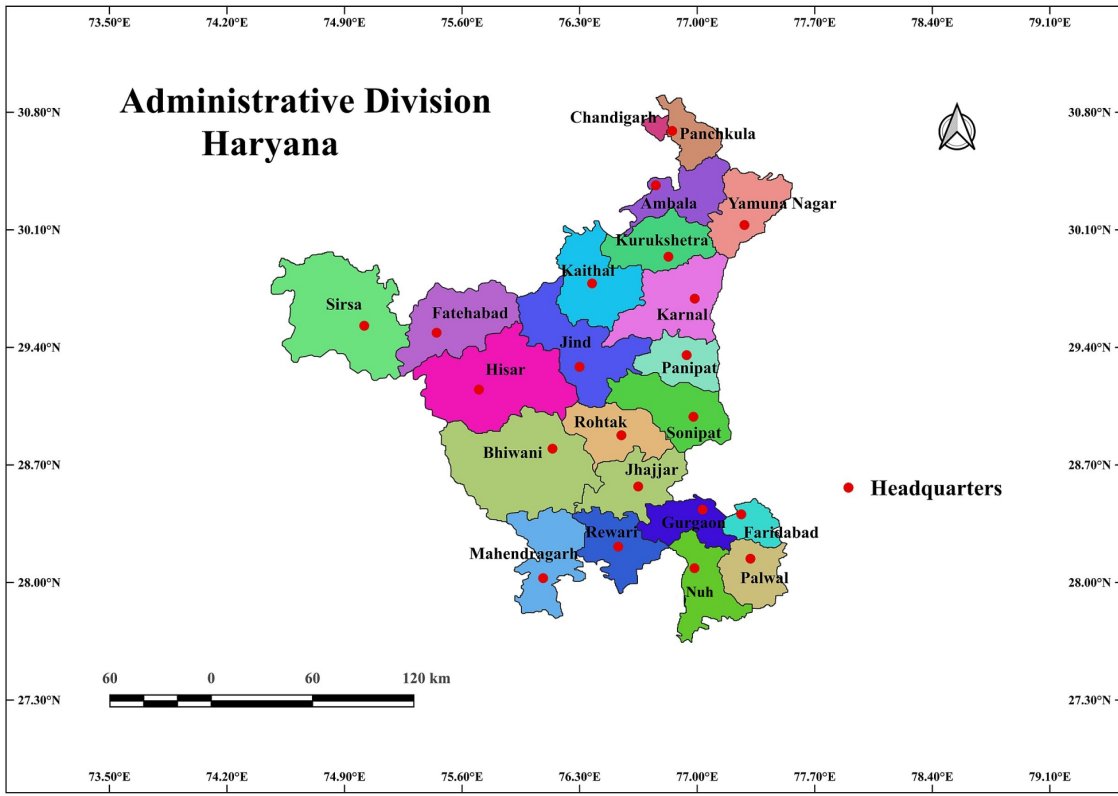
Key Points

▪ Punjab:

- **Monoculture Cropping:** Punjab's agriculture is characterized by a [rice-wheat monoculture](#), with farmers growing only these two crops **during the [kharif \(monsoon\) and rabi \(winter-spring\) seasons, respectively](#)**.
 - Area under rice cultivation increased from 28.9 lakh hectares (lh) in 2014-15 to 31.9 lh in 2023-24.
- **Output Rankings:** Punjab **ranks 3rd** in both wheat and rice output in India.
 - India has eight major wheat-producing states compared to 16 for rice.
- **Water and Environmental Issues:** Rice is [water-intensive crop](#) and requires about 25 irrigations, whereas wheat requires only 4-5 irrigations.
 - Excessive rice production contributes to [groundwater depletion](#) and **high fiscal costs for [grain procurement and stocking](#)**.

▪ Haryana:

- **Less Monoculture:** Haryana features a more diversified cropping pattern compared to Punjab, avoiding the rice-wheat monoculture.
 - **Kharif Season:** Includes **rice, [cotton](#), [bajra \(pearl millet\)](#), and [guar \(cluster bean\)](#)**.
 - **Rabi Season:** Includes wheat, rapeseed-mustard, chana (chickpea), and sunflower.
- **Rice Varieties:** [Basmati Rice](#) in Haryana accounts for 56.2% of the rice area (2019-20 to 2023-24).
 - Basmati rice **consumes less water compared to non-basmati varieties**.
 - Basmati is planted in July, benefiting from monsoon rains and cooler temperatures, enhancing its fragrance.
- **Canal Network:** Extensive canal network of **1,594 channels, 14,814 km long**.
 - [Irrigates](#) northeast, central, and northwest districts of Haryana.
 - Southern districts (Charkhi Dadri, Jhajjar, etc.) have limited irrigation access.
- **Crop Distribution:**
 - **Southern Haryana:** Farmers typically grow [bajra, guar, and jowar](#) in kharif and wheat, mustard, chana, and [barley in rabi](#).
- **Challenges:**
 - **Increased Rice Area:** Record levels of rice cultivation in 2024, with 16.4 lakh hectares planted.
 - This increase has led to a decrease in **cotton acreage** (4.8 lakh hectares).
 - Decreased cotton acreage from 6.7 lakh hectares in 2023 due to low prices and [pink bollworm pest attacks](#).
- **Diversification Efforts:** Efforts under the [Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana \(BBY\)](#) to promote crop diversification.
 - [MSP](#) procurement and price deficiency payments for **bajra, mustard, sunflower, and other crops**



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