



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions. (Answer in 250 words, UPSC Mains 2023)

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### Approach

- Briefly introduce the concept of cropping patterns and their importance in agriculture.
- Discuss the various factors that influence cropping patterns, including environmental, economic, and social factors.
- Conclude by summarizing the key points discussed in the answer.

### Introduction

Changes in cropping patterns reflect the evolving demands of consumers, market dynamics and economic factors and are closely associated with changing consumption pattern and marketing dynamics.

### Body

#### Changing market conditions influencing cropping patterns

- Improved market access through better road and rail connectivity has expanded market access for farmers and thus, in turn, fuelled cultivation of certain crops.
- Availability of international markets for certain crops like Alphonso mango, basmati rice, etc. has led to their increased cultivation.
- Government initiatives like Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism incentivize the farmers to grow the crops covered under it.
- The National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) was launched to provide for better price discovery and easy accessibility of market for the crop growers.

#### Changing consumption pattern influencing cropping patterns

- With rising income and urbanization, there is rising demand for protein-rich foods, fruits, vegetables, dairy, poultry, etc.
- Increased health consciousness has led to higher demand for organic and nutrient rich foods.
- With the rise in demand for chemical-free food, growth in hydroponics and aeroponics crops, has led to an increase in demand for exotic food.

### Conclusion

Change in cropping patterns are shaped by complex factors, including consumer preferences, market conditions, government policies, technological advancements, among others.

