



Fennel Production in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Following a three-year-long study, **four desert districts in Rajasthan**, where farmers depend on saline water for irrigation, are **set to emerge as hubs of fennel production**.

- The **study was conducted** in Bikaner, Nagaur, Churu, and Barmer districts

Key Points

- Taxonomically classified as *Foeniculum vulgare*, fennel is a **hardy, perennial herb with yellow flowers and feathery leaves**.
- **Rajasthan and Gujarat are the leading fennel-producing States** in India, contributing about **96% of the total production**.
 - In Rajasthan, the **highest amount of fennel is cultivated in** Nagaur district, covering 10,000 hectares. Its cultivation also **takes place** in Sirohi, Jodhpur, Jalore, Bharatpur, and Sawai Madhopur districts.
- The **trials measured the yield and tested salt tolerance** of the different fennel varieties and found encouraging results.
 - The **fennel variety, RF-290, was found to be viable** for irrigation with saline water.
- Drip irrigation with saline water **could expand the area under fennel production** and increase productivity to make agriculture remunerative for farmers cultivating the spice.
- According to the study, **the experimental irrigation led to the production of about nine quintals of fennel per hectare** and good production of fennel can also be obtained in areas **where farming is done through tube wells**.



