



## Lentil Production India

**For Prelims:** About Lentil, Lentil Growing Region, [National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India \(NAFED\)](#), [Small Farmers Agri Consortium \(SFAC\)](#), [National Food Security Mission \(NFSM\)-Pulses](#), [ICAR's Role in Research and Variety Development](#), [Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshana Abhiyan \(PM-AASHA\) Scheme](#).

**For Mains:** Status of Lentil Production in India, Status of Pulse Production in India, Government Initiatives for Pulse Production In India

**Source:** [IE](#)

### Why in News?

As per the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, India is **set to become the world's largest producer** of lentils (masoor) during the 2023-24 crop year on account of higher acreage.

- The country's lentil production is estimated to touch an all-time high of **1.6 million tonnes in the 2023-24** rabi season on higher acreage.
- According to official data, in the 2022-23 crop year, the country's lentil production stood at 1.56 million tonnes.

### What are Lentils?

- **About:**
  - Lentil is a bushy **annual herbaceous plant** of the **legume family**.
  - These are edible legumes, known for their lens-shaped, flat disced seed.
  - Lentil plants are typically short, and bear **self-pollinated flowers**.
  - Lentil grains are excellent sources of energy, carbohydrates, protein, fat, fibers, phosphorus, iron, zinc, carotene, vitamins, and antioxidants.
- **Climatic Condition:**
  - Lentil is primarily grown as a rainfed crop.
  - It requires **cold temperature during its vegetative growth** and warm temperature at the time of maturity.
  - Lentil is grown during **rabi season**.
- **Soil Types:**
  - Lentils can grow on various soil types, from sand to clay loam, growing best in deep sandy loam soils with moderate fertility.
  - A soil pH around 7 would be the best. Lentils **do not tolerate flooding or water-logged conditions**.
- **Lentil Growing Region:**
  - It is mainly cultivated in **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand**.
    - The Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is considered as lentil bowl which contributes nearly 25% to the total lentil production in the country.

- According to the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, the world top lentil growers in 2022 were **Canada, India**, Australia, Turkey, and Russia.
  - Despite being the **second largest producer of lentil, India has so far been relying on imports** to meet its domestic requirements, buying mainly from Australia, Canada, Russia, Singapore, and Turkey.

## What is the Status of Pulse Production in India?

- India is the **largest producer (25% of global production), consumer (27% of world consumption) and importer (14%)** of pulses in the world.
- Pulses account for around 20% of the area under foodgrains and contribute around 7-10% of the total foodgrains production in the country.
- **Gram is the most dominant pulse** having a share of around 40 % in the total production followed by Tur/Arhar at 15 to 20 % and Urad/Black Matpe and Moong at around 8-10 % each.
- Though pulses are grown in both Kharif and Rabi seasons, **Rabi pulses contribute more than 60% of the total production.**
- Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka are the top five pulses-producing states.

## What are Government Initiatives to Boost Pulses Production in India?

- **Policy Support:** The policy prescription for ensuring reasonable prices to the farmers largely centres around procuring the pulses by providing **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** to the farmers through **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)** and more recently through **Small Farmers Agri Consortium (SFAC).**
- **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses.**
- **ICAR's Role in Research and Variety Development**
- **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) Scheme**

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. With reference to pulse production in India, consider the following statements: (2020)**

1. Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and rabi crop.
2. Green-gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.
3. In the last three decades, while the production of kharif pulses has increased, the production of rabi pulses has decreased.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: A**

### Mains:

**Q. Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by United Nations. (2017)**

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