



# Lentil Production in India

## 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 **Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh** is considered a **lentil bowl** which **contributes nearly 25% to the total lentil production in the country.**

## Key Points

- Lentil production is estimated to touch an all-time high of 1.6 million tonnes in the 2023-24 rabi season on higher acreage.
- 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 food grains** 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.**
- 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 \(SFAC\)](#).**

## 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.

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