



Uttar Pradesh Aims to Increase Maize Production

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is targeting to increase the production of Maize to more than **3.2 million tonnes (mt) by 2027-28**.

Key Points

- Currently, the state's maize production across different **cropping seasons (kharif, rabi, and zaid)** is estimated at **2.12 mt across 830,000 hectares**.
 - The yield is at nearly **25.49 quintals (100 kg) per hectare**, which is **lower than the national average**.
 - The state plans to increase maize acreage by 200,000 hectares and **boost production by an additional 1.1 mt**.
 - This will hike the state's maize area and production to about 1.03 million hectares (MH) and 3.2 mt, respectively.
- The state will invest almost Rs 150 crore on various maize publicity programs and give **incentives** to food processing units.
- Maize crop has **multifarious uses as food, poultry feed, and fuel (grain based ethanol)**.
- It is also used in **pharmaceutical, cosmetic, textile, paper, and alcohol industries**.
 - Maize is the **third most important cereal crop in India**, after paddy and wheat, and accounts for nearly **10% of total food grain production**.
 - Globally, maize is referred to as the **'queen of cereals'** owing to its high genetic yield potential among the cereal crops.
- Industry has estimated that India needs to ramp up maize production by 10 mt over the next four-five years to cater to the demand from the ethanol and poultry sectors.
- The demand for maize is rising due to growing health awareness. People prefer maize for its high nutritional value, macronutrients like **starch, fiber, protein, fat, vitamin B complex, carotene and essential minerals like magnesium, zinc, phosphorus, and copper**.

Maize

- **Temperature:** Between 21-27°C
- **Rainfall:** High rainfall.
- **Soil Type:** Old alluvial soil.
- **Top Maize Producing States:** Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
- As per the [FAO \(Food and Agriculture Organisation\)](#) data, India was the **fifth largest producer of Maize in 2020**.
- It is used both as **food and fodder**.
- Use of modern inputs such as **High-Yielding Variety seeds, fertilisers and irrigation** have contributed to the **increasing production** of maize.
- **Technology Mission on Maize** is one of the government's initiatives for maize.

