

5. India’s Agriculture Production – Geography

India’s agricultural sector remains the backbone of its economic resilience and social stability. Below is an elaborated and structured analysis of the current agricultural landscape, production trends, and the strategic policy interventions driving the sector toward self-reliance.

1. Background

Definition of Agriculture and Allied Activities

In the Indian economic context, "Agriculture and Allied Activities" encompasses a broad spectrum of primary production –

Agriculture – Cultivation of field crops (cereals, pulses, oilseeds, etc.).

Horticulture – Cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and plantation crops.

Allied Activities – Livestock (dairy, poultry), forestry, and fisheries.

The Role of GVA (Gross Value Added)

GVA is a productivity metric that measures the contribution of a sector to the economy after deducting the cost of inputs. Currently, agriculture contributes nearly one-fifth of India’s total GVA, highlighting its systemic importance despite the growth of the services and manufacturing sectors.

2. Current Status and Economic Significance (2024–25)

The sector has demonstrated robust performance, characterized by steady growth and record-breaking outputs.

Growth Rate – The sector maintained an average annual growth rate of 4.4% at constant prices over the last five years.

Workforce Dependency – Agriculture employs 46.1% of the national workforce and supports approximately 55% of the total population.

Foodgrain Production – India achieved a record output of 357.73 MMT in 2024–25, a significant jump of 25.43 MMT over the previous year, led by rice, wheat, maize, and coarse cereals.

Horticultural Shift – Total production reached 362.08 MT, signaling a structural transition where farmers are increasingly moving toward high-value crops like fruits and vegetables.

3. Agricultural Exports and Global Presence

India has transitioned from a food-deficit nation to a significant global exporter of agri-products.

Export Growth – Earnings rose from USD 34.5 billion (FY20) to USD 51.1 billion (FY25), representing a CAGR of 8.2%.

Value Addition – The share of processed food in the export basket rose from 14.9% (FY18) to 20.4% (FY25), indicating better income realization for farmers through value addition.

4. Regional Production Patterns in India

India’s diverse agro-climatic zones allow for a wide variety of crop specializations across different states.

Crop Category	Leading Producing States	Key Notes
Rice	Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal	Principal staple for over half the population.
Wheat	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab	Major rabi crop; critical for food security.
Pulses	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan	Essential for protein security; focus of self-sufficiency.
Millets	Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka	India is the Global Leader in millet production.
Fruits	Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, UP, Gujarat, TN	India is the World’s 2nd largest producer.
Vegetables	UP, West Bengal, MP, Bihar, Gujarat	Crucial for nutritional security and local markets.

5. Public Policy Interventions – The "Farm-to-Market" Value Chain

The government has launched several missions to address specific gaps in the agricultural cycle, from seed quality to soil health and credit access.

Production & Self-Reliance Missions

National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) – Targets increased production of staples (rice, wheat, pulses) and nutri-cereals.

Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses (2025–31) – A dedicated roadmap to end import dependence on pulses by enhancing domestic yield.

National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO) – Includes sub-missions for Oil Palm and Oilseeds to achieve self-reliance by 2030–31.

Resource & Input Management

Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP) – Focuses on the "Seed Replacement Rate" to ensure farmers use high-quality, certified seeds instead of low-yield farm-saved seeds.

Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme – Parameters – Tests soil on 12 key factors (N, P, K, pH, Organic Carbon, etc.).

1. **Frequency** – Issued every two years to prevent over-fertilization and maintain long-term soil fertility.

Infrastructure and Credit

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) – Focuses on "More Crop Per Drop" by subsidizing drip and sprinkler irrigation systems to improve water-use efficiency.

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) – Provides a single-window credit delivery system, offering timely and flexible loans to farmers for cultivation and post-harvest requirements.

6. Conclusion – The Way Ahead

India's agricultural transformation is evolving from a focus on mere "production" to a focus on "resilient production systems." By integrating allied activities (like dairy and fisheries) with mainstream farming and leveraging high-value horticulture, the sector is creating a diversified income base for rural households. The continued success of these policy interventions will be vital for India's long-term economic stability and its role as a "global food basket."

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