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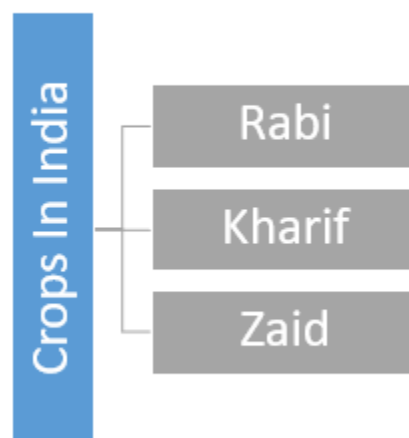
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Crops in India - Know About Kharif, Rabi & Zaid Crops in India!

Agriculture plays a vital role in the Indian economy. Agriculture is the backbone of our country. It includes farming of crops, animal husbandry, pisciculture, agro-forestry etc. Nearly *60% of Indian Population* primarily depend on agriculture. Agriculture along with fisheries, forestry and other allied sectors contribute around *15.87%* to the overall GDP of our country. The particular weather and soil conditions allow for crops in India uniquely suited to it. Let us take a look at the major crops in India.

Crop Seasons in India

India is the top producer of many crops in the world. There can be many ways to divide the types of crops (based on area, season, economic value etc.). Based on seasons, the crops in India are divided into three types: Rabi, Kharif and Zaid.



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Kharif Crops

- Sown in June-July when rains first begin (Monsoon crop).
- Harvested in September-October.
- Requires lot of water and hot weather to grow.
- Example: Rice, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Cotton, Groundnut, Jute, Sugarcane, Turmeric, Pulses (like Urad Dal) etc.

Rabi Crops

- Sown in October-November
- Harvested in April-May.
- Requires warm climate for germination of seeds and maturation and cold climate for the growth.
- Example: Wheat, Oat, Gram, Pea, Barley, Potato, Tomato, Onion, Oil seeds (like Rapeseed, Sunflower, Sesame, Mustard) etc.

Zaid Crops

- Grown between March-June between Rabi and Kharif crop seasons.
- Early maturing crops.
- Example: Cucumber, Bitter Gourd, Pumpkin, Watermelon, Muskmelon, Moong Dal etc.

Categories of Crops in India

The major crops can all be divided into four main categories depending on their usage.

1. Food Crops (Wheat, Maize, Rice, Millets and Pulses etc.)
2. Cash Crops (Sugarcane, Tobacco, Cotton, Jute and Oilseeds etc.)
3. Plantation Crops (Coffee, Coconut, Tea, and Rubber etc.)



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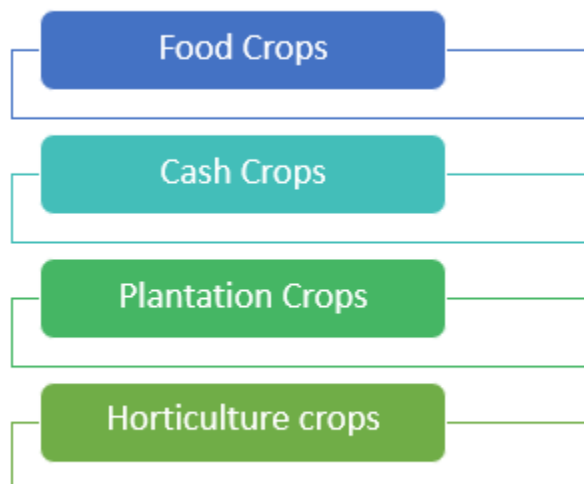
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4. Horticulture crops (Fruits and Vegetables)



Major Crops in India

Now let us look at the major crops in India in detail.

Rice

- Rice is a tropical crop that can be grown almost throughout the year.
- It depends on atmospheric moisture and rainfall for irrigation.
- India is the 2nd largest producer of rice in the world.
- India has largest area in world under rice cultivation.
- Productivity is low compared to wheat because Green Revolution primarily boosted wheat production in India.
- The traditional rice fields are known as paddy fields and require to be flooded with 10-12 cm deep water in the early stages.

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Major Crops in India – Rice	
Type of Crop	Kharif, Rabi
Techniques Used	Transplantation technique, Japanese Transplantation technique, new SRI technique
Varieties	Aman, Sali, Afghani, Aus, Boro, Palua
Temperature	~ 24 °C
Rainfall	~ 150 cm
Soil type	Clay/ Loamy
Major Producers	West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Haryana
Highest Producer	West Bengal
Highest per Hectare Yield	Punjab
Research Centre	Cuttack, Odisha
Highest Producing Country	China

Wheat

It is the 2nd most important food crop in India. It is a Rabi crop. India stands second in production of wheat worldwide. It is more flexible in terms of climactic and other conditions of growth.

Major Crops in India - Wheat	
Type of Crop	Rabi
Varieties	Kalyan Sona, Sonalika, Heera
Temperature	17-20 °C
Rainfall	20-100 cm (ideal ~75 cm)





Soil type	Clay loam, Sandy loam
Major Producers	Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Uttarakhand
Highest Producer	Uttar Pradesh
Highest per Hectare Yield	Punjab
Research Centre	Karnal, Haryana
Highest Producing Country	China

Cotton

Cotton is a tropical and subtropical Kharif crop. It is a fibre crop and is known as 'White gold'. India ranks 3rd in the production of cotton worldwide. It is a dry crop but roots need timely supply of water at maturity.

Major Crops in India - Cotton	
Type of Crop	Kharif
Varieties	Long Staple, Medium Staple, Short Staple
Temperature	21-30 °C
Rainfall	50-100 cm
Soil type	Black soil (Highly water retentive soil)
Major Producers	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa
Highest Producer	Gujarat (According to the 2015 report)
Research Centre	Nagpur, Maharashtra
Highest Producing Country	China

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Jute

Jute is a tropical plant that requires hot and humid climate. It is one of the most important natural fibres in terms of cultivation and usage. Almost 85% of the world's jute is cultivated in the Ganges Delta.

Major Crops in India - Jute	
Type of Crop	Zaid
Varieties	White Jute, Tossa Jute
Temperature	24-35 °C
Rainfall	125-200 cm
Soil type	Sandy and Clay Loam
Major Producers	West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh
Highest Producer	West Bengal
Highest per Hectare Yield	West Bengal
Research Centre	Kolkata & Nilgunj, West Bengal
Highest Producing Country	India (but highest exporter is Bangladesh)

Sugarcane

Sugarcane is an important cash crop. India stands at 2nd position among all countries in the world in its production. Sugarcane crop requires long rainy season of at least 7-8 months. Traditional Sugarcane Production was in North India but it has also shifted to South India. North India Sugarcane are of sub-tropical variety and so have low sugar content. Also sugar factories have to remain shut in winter seasons in North India. South India- Tropical Variety and coastal areas hence have high sugar content and high yield.

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**testbook****Major Crops in India - Sugarcane**

Type of Crop	Kharif, Rabi
Temperature	20-26 °C
Rainfall	75-150 cm
Soil type	Clayey Loamy Soil/ Black Cotton Soil/ Red Loamy Soil/ Brown Loamy Soil
Major Producers	Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab
Highest Producer	Uttar Pradesh
Highest per Hectare Yield	Tamil Nadu
Research Centre	Lucknow
Highest Producing Country	Brazil

Check Out Our Video On Top Crop producers of India - [Watch Here!](#)

Tea

Tea is an evergreen plant that mainly grows in tropical and subtropical climates. Tea is a labour intensive crop and 50% of the labourers are women. It grows faster under light shade. Commercial cultivation of tea started in India from British era. India is the 2nd largest producer and the largest consumer of tea in the world. Tea plants require high rainfall but its roots cannot tolerate water logging. Hence, it requires sloppy areas.

Major Crops in India - Tea

Temperature	20-30 °C
Rainfall	150-300 cm



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Soil type	Loamy soil which is acidic in nature and rich in organic matter.
Major Producers	Assam, Darjeeling (West Bengal), Meghalaya, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka
Highest Producer	Assam
Research Centre	Tocklai, Assam
Highest Producing Country	China

Coffee

Coffees are grown in shade and commonly with two tiers of shade. Growing altitudes of coffee range between 1,000 to 1,500 m above sea level for Arabica (premier coffee), and 500 to 1,000 m for Robusta (lower quality). Both varieties are planted in well-drained soil conditions that favour rich organic matter. Coffee plantation is done along hilly slope. Slopes of Arabica tend to be gentle to moderate, while Robusta slopes are gentle to fairly level.

Major Crops in India - Coffee	
Varieties	Arabica and Robusta
Temperature	16-28°C
Rainfall	150-250 cm
Soil type	Well-drained forest loam
Major Producers	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland
Highest Producer	Karnataka
Highest Producing Country	Brazil

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Spices

India has been known for its spices since ancient times.

Cardamom (Queen of Aromatic Spices) – Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu

Pepper (King of Spices) – Kerala

Chillies – Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan

Turmeric – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu

Nutmeg – Kerala

Arecanut – Kerala, Karnataka, Tripura, Assam

Coconut – Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh

Cinnamon – Kerala

Clove – Kerala

Ginger – Kerala, Meghalaya, Sikkim

Major Crops in India - Spices	
Location	1000-2000m altitude of Western Ghats and other hilly areas
Temperature	10-30 °C
Rainfall	200-300 cm
Soil type	Loamy soil/ Lateritic soil
Major Producers	Kerala, Karnataka
Highest Producer	Kerala

Check out more such articles.

General Awareness	
<u>Types of Soil in India</u>	<u>Agriculture Facts</u>

