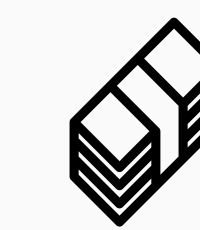


Land Area

The land area in 1997 was 142 million ha, out of which some 24 million ha of cultivable land was kept fallow for some time due to insufficient rainfall and lack of resources.

Since then, the land used for agriculture only continued to grow, and in 2021 the land area had increased by 27.39% to 181 million ha, out of which 154 million ha was used as cultivable land.



Contribution to GDP

Agriculture is the foundation of the Indian economy. The population of India mostly depends on agriculture for their livelihood.

While the agriculture sector contributed to about 51.9% just after independence, that number dipped down to just over 25% in 1997, and in 2021 it went further down to just 18.8%.

This was likely due to industrialization, slow growth, and lack of innovation in the agriculture sector.

India's crop production from 1997-2021



Workforce

India has the largest workforce engaged in agriculture. After 61 years of Independence, the share of agriculture in total national income declined from 50 percent in 1950 to 18 percent in 2007- 08. But even today more than 60% of the workforce is engaged in agriculture as of today.

This number though, has stayed relatively constant throughout the years, despite the decrease in the GVA.



Exports

Agricultural export is extremely important as besides earning precious foreign exchange for the country, the exports help farmers/producers/exporters to take advantage of the wider international market and increase their income.

The share of agricultural exports to total exports increased from 18.47% in 1990-91 to 20.33% in 1996-97, after that it decreased sharply and reached 9.64% in 2008-09 and later on showed a mixed trend and finally reached 14.20% in 2020-21.