In India, cultivation of Kathia Wheat is done in approximately 25 lakh hectare area. Mainly, tropical climatic areas of middle and south India comes under it. Kathia wheat is the second level important wheat of Triticum family in India. In all the three sub-families of wheat (Astium, Durum and Cocum), kathia wheat is placed at second position in respect to wheat sown area and production. Its cultivation is very old in India. In earlier days, it was mostly grown in Punjab of north-west India, followed by Karnataka in south India and then after it spread from east to west Bengal.

Cultivation of Kathia wheat was often done in rain fed (un-irrigated) area. Hence the yield was un- certain and this variety was grown in disease infested area, low fertilizer retaining capacity and limited area. Today, nature has provided unlimited potential of Kathia wheat production in middle India. Quality wheat can be grown in Malawanchal of Middle India, Saurashtra and Kathiawar of Gujarat, Kota, Malwad and Udaipur of Rajasthan and Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh. Kathia wheat is supposed to be good for commercial use. Semolina derived from it is used in manufacturing of easily digestible food such as Pizza, Spaghetti, Sewai, Noodles, Worm celli etc. Due to disease resistance capacity, its possibility of export is higher.

Benefits from cultivation of Kathia Wheat

- **Less Irrigation-** Variety of Kathia wheat is draught resistant. Hence 3 times irrigation is sufficient which yields 45-50 quintal per hectare.
- **High Production-** In case of irrigated condition, the average yield of Kathia variety is 50-60 quintal per hectare where as in non-irrigated and rain fed conditions, the average yield is 30-35 quintal per hectare.
- **Sufficient Nutritive Element-** Kathia variety not only provided food security but of nutritive elements, the protein content is 1.5- 2.0% higher than Astivum, higher content of Vitamin ‘A’ and Beta Carotene and Gluten is found in sufficient quantity.
- **Crop Security-** In Kathia wheat, menace of Gerui or Ratua disease is found less or more as per temperature. New variety6 can be grown to reduce its effect.

Varieties

- **For Irrigated Condition -** PDW 215, PDW 233, Raj 1555, WH 896, HI 8498, Hi 8381, GW 190,GW 273, MPO 1215
- **For Uneven Condition -** Ornej 9-30-1, Meghdoot, Vizga yellow, JU-12, GW 2, HD 4672, Sujata, HI -627.

Quantity of Fertilizer

Use of balanced fertilizers and manures is essential for best quality of seeds and good yield. Hence 120 kg nitrogen (half of the quantity with plough), 60 kg phosphorous and 30 kg potash per hectare is sufficient in irrigated condition. Use half of the quantity of nitrogen after irrigation as top dressing. Use nitrogen, phosphorous and potash in the ratio of 60:30:15 in non- irrigated condition and 80:40:20 in half irrigated condition.

Sowing

In un-irrigated conditions, wheat must be sown from last week of October to first week of November. In irrigated conditions, second and third week of November is the best the best time of sowing.

Irrigation

Do irrigation as per requirement. 2-3 times irrigation in un-irrigated condition and 3 times irrigation in irrigated condition are sufficient.

1	First sowing	25-30 days of sowing	Crown root stage
2	Second sowing	60-70 days of sowing	Milking stage
3	Third sowing	90-100 days of sowing	Grain formation

Crop Protection

Use weed herbicides and disease resistant chemicals as in normal wheat.

Harvesting

There is possibility of falling Kathia wheat. Hence early harvesting and threshing should be done when the crop is ripened.

Important Point for successful cultivation of Kathia wheat

- Timely sowing is essential for good yield.
- In non-irrigated and half irrigated condition, sufficient moisture is essential at the time of sowing.
- Sow the seed by selecting recommended variety of Kathia wheat taken from seed sale center.
- At the time of ripening, low moisture content is required for shining grains.
- Use least quantity of disease and insecticides so that the quality of grains is not affected.