

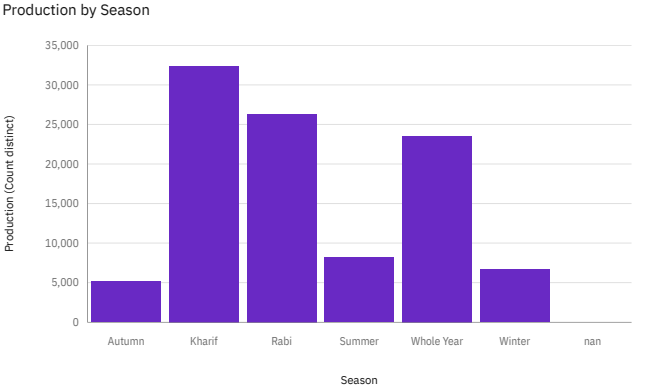
AGRICULTURE IN INDIA

RE-IMAGINE FARMING

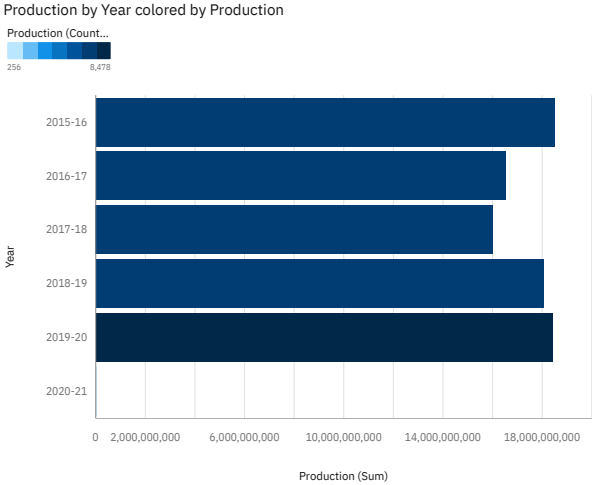
PRODUCTION BY SEASON & YEAR:

About half of the total population is engaged in agricultural and allied activities in India. Various types of food and fiber crops, vegetables and fruits, spices and condiments, etc. constitute some of the important crops grown in the country. The contribution of agriculture to GDP is approximately 18%.

India is a peninsular country with a monsoon-



Agriculture and allied sector have emerged as the most resilient sector of Indian economy post the COVID-19 pandemic, with positive growth rates and increasing production over the last two years. The sector employs over 50% of the workforce and contributed to around 20% of the country's Gross Value Added in 2020-21 as per the first revised estimates. 'Agricultural Statistics at a Glance' is the flagship publication of the Directorate of Economics & Statistics and is regarded as the most reliable source of comprehensive and updated database on variegated aspects of the agriculture sector in India, including economic & social dimensions, production, trade, minimum support prices, cost of production, food security, subsidy, agriculture input, insurance, land use statistics etc.



STRATEGIES:

- **Enhancing agricultural productivity, competitiveness, and rural growth:**

Promoting new technologies and reforming agricultural research and extension: Major reform and strengthening of India's agricultural research and extension systems is one of the most important needs for agricultural growth. These services have declined over time due to chronic underfunding of infrastructure and operations, no replacement of aging researchers or broad access to state-of-the-art technologies. Research now has little to provide beyond the time-worn packages of the past. Public extension services are struggling and offer little new knowledge to farmers. There is too little connection between research and extension, or between these services and the private sector.

Improving Water Resources and Irrigation/Drainage Management: Agriculture is India's largest user of water. However, increasing competition for water between industry, domestic use and agriculture has highlighted the need to plan and manage water on a river basin and multi-sectoral basis. As urban and other demands multiply, less water is likely to be available for irrigation.

(i) modernizing Irrigation and Drainage Departments to integrate the participation of farmers and other agencies in managing irrigation water; (ii) improving cost recovery; (iii)

- **Poverty alleviation and community actions:**

While agricultural growth will, in itself, provide the base for increasing incomes, for the 170 million or so rural persons that are below the poverty line, additional measures are required to make this growth inclusive. For instance, a rural livelihoods program that empowers communities to become self-reliant has been found to be particularly effective and well-suited for scaling-up. This program promotes the formation of self-help groups, increases community savings, and promotes local initiatives to increase incomes and employment. By federating to become larger entities, these institutions of the poor gain the strength to negotiate better prices and market access for their products, and also gain the political power over local governments to provide them with better technical and social services. These self-help groups are particularly effective at reaching women and impoverished families.

- **Sustaining the environment and future agricultural productivity:**

In parts of India, the over-pumping of water for agricultural use is leading to falling groundwater levels. Conversely, water-logging is leading to the build-up of salts in the soils of some irrigated areas. In rain-fed areas on the other hand, where the majority of the rural

- **Enhancing yield of major commodities:** Yield of major crops and livestock is much lower in India in comparison to other regions of the world. Since the scope of expanding the area under cultivation is very limited, increasing the yield of food production seems to be the only viable solution to meet the continuing high demand. In order to bridge the wide technological divide there is a need to strengthen research and development framework.
- **Climate resilient seeds:** Indian agriculture, in particular, faces serious production risks due to climate change, as the country experiences “prolonged droughts in the Deccan plateau, states of the west, and southern peninsula, and floods in the Himalayan foothills from melting glaciers in the Himalayas” (Gulati, Kapur and Bouton, 2019). Farmers, hence, are always vulnerable to the risk of crop failure and income volatility. Therefore, the key to ensuring food sufficiency for a growing population is raising agricultural productivity through new strategic investments in climate resilient seeds with tolerance against droughts and floods as well as sustainable farming practices.
- **Increased Investment in Agriculture and Infrastructure:** The declining productivity and low capital formation in the agricultural sector can be largely attributed to the declining public investment in the sector. This trend is alarming considering the burden on productivity-driven growth in the future. The tools of modern biotechnology, including genetic engineering, as well as conventional breeding methods are expected to play

CONCLUSION:

In India, agriculture is considered a primary livelihood for most of the population, which can never be underestimated. Agriculture has existed for thousands of years in our country and has developed with new technologies and equipment that have replaced traditional farming methods. In India, few farmers still use the traditional farming method because they lack the resources to use modern techniques. Agriculture is the only sector that contributes to itself and other country sectors. India is the second-largest wheat, rice, cotton, fruit, vegetables, and tea producer. It is also a global powerhouse of agricultural production. It is the world's largest producer of spices, milk, wheat, rice and cotton. The population of India largely depends on agriculture, and it is not only just a means of livelihood but a way of living. The Government of India is continuously developing the agricultural sector by framing new laws, implementing modern technology, etc. In India, the entire nation depends on agriculture for food. In earlier times, agriculture was mainly

