

Backend Development Roadmap - Next Steps (3-5 Days)

Project: The Petal Pouches E-commerce Platform

Phase: Backend Core Development (Post-Cloudinary Integration)

Timeline: Days 1-5

Date: October 19, 2025

Current Status Overview

Completed:

- Cloudinary image upload integration
- Product creation with image upload to Cloudinary
- Basic product listing (GET all products)
- Supabase database connection
- Multer file upload middleware
- Basic server setup with Express
- Environment configuration

In Progress:

- Product update functionality (scaffolded, needs testing)
- Product delete functionality (scaffolded, needs testing)

Not Started:

- Category management system
 - Product variants system
 - Individual product retrieval
 - Advanced product filtering
 - Image gallery management
 - Inventory management
-

Development Strategy

Why This Order?

1. **Categories First** - Products reference categories; need valid category_id values
2. **Complete Products** - Finish CRUD before adding complexity (variants, bundles)
3. **Variants System** - Enable product options (colors, sizes, materials)
4. **Quality Assurance** - Test thoroughly before moving to customer-facing features

What Comes After (Days 6+):

- Shopping cart system
 - Order management
 - Payment integration (Razorpay/Stripe)
 - Shipping integration (Shiprocket)
 - User authentication
 - Admin authentication & authorization
-



Day-by-Day Breakdown

DAY 1: Category Management System

Objective:

Build complete category CRUD operations to enable proper product categorization.

Why Categories First?

- Products table has `category_id` foreign key to Categories table
 - Admin needs to create categories before assigning products to them
 - Frontend will need categories for filtering and navigation
-

Tasks for Day 1:

Task 1.1: Create Category Controller

File to Create: `backend/src/controllers/categoryController.js`

Functions to Implement:

1. `createCategory`

- Purpose: Admin creates new product category
- Method: POST
- Inputs: name, description
- Validations:
 - Name is required and unique
 - Description is optional
- Returns: Created category object with UUID

2. `getAllCategories`

- Purpose: Fetch all categories (public route)
- Method: GET
- Query params: None initially (later add pagination)
- Returns: Array of all categories

3. `getCategoryById`

- Purpose: Get single category details
- Method: GET
- Params: category UUID
- Returns: Category object with id, name, description, created_at

4. `updateCategory`

- Purpose: Admin updates category name/description
- Method: PUT
- Params: category UUID
- Inputs: name (optional), description (optional)
- Validations: At least one field must be updated
- Returns: Updated category object

5. `deleteCategory`

- Purpose: Admin deletes category

- Method: DELETE
- Params: category UUID
- Important: Check if products exist in this category
- Options:
 - Prevent deletion if products exist (recommended)
 - Or set product category_id to NULL (optional)
- Returns: Success message

Error Handling Required:

- Category not found (404)
 - Duplicate category name (409)
 - Database errors (500)
 - Validation errors (400)
-

Task 1.2: Create Category Routes

File to Create: `backend/src/routes/categories.js`

Routes to Define:

Public Routes:

```
GET  /api/categories      - Get all categories
GET  /api/categories/:id  - Get single category
```

Admin Routes:

```
POST /api/admin/categories - Create category
PUT  /api/admin/categories/:id - Update category
DELETE /api/admin/categories/:id - Delete category
```

Middleware:

- Admin routes: Will need authentication middleware (implement later)
- For now: Create routes without auth, add auth in Phase 2

Task 1.3: Update Main Server File

File to Modify: `backend/src/index.js`

Changes:

- Import category routes
 - Register routes: `app.use('/api/categories', categoryRoutes)`
 - Ensure admin routes are also registered properly
-

Task 1.4: Testing

Tools: Postman, Thunder Client, or Insomnia

Test Cases:

1. Create Category

- Test with valid data (name + description)
- Test with only name (description optional)
- Test with duplicate name (should fail)
- Test with empty name (should fail)

2. Get All Categories

- Verify returns empty array if no categories
- Verify returns all created categories
- Check correct format (id, name, description, created_at)

3. Get Single Category

- Test with valid category UUID
- Test with invalid UUID (should return 404)

4. Update Category

- Update name only
- Update description only
- Update both fields
- Test with invalid UUID (should return 404)

5. Delete Category

- Delete category with no products (should succeed)
 - Delete category with products (decide behavior)
 - Test with invalid UUID (should return 404)
-

Task 1.5: Seed Sample Categories

Purpose: Create initial categories for testing product creation




Recommended Categories for The Petal Pouches:




1. Necklaces
2. Rings
3. Bracelets & Bangles
4. Earrings
5. Anklets
6. Soft Toys & Plushies
7. Hair Accessories
8. Phone Cases
9. Bags & Pouches
10. Stationery & Gifts

Method:

- Use Postman/Thunder Client to POST each category
 - Or create a seed script: `backend/scripts/seedCategories.js`
 - Save the returned UUIDs for product creation
-

Day 1 Deliverables:

-  `categoryController.js` created and working
-  `categories.js` routes created
-  Server updated with category routes

-  All 5 CRUD operations tested
 -  10 sample categories created in database
 -  Category UUIDs documented for product assignment
-

DAY 2: Complete Product Management

Objective:

Finish the product CRUD system and add advanced features.

Tasks for Day 2:

Task 2.1: Add Get Product by ID

File to Modify: `backend/src/controllers/productController.js`

New Function: `getProductById`

- Purpose: Fetch single product details for Product Detail Page (PDP)
 - Method: GET
 - Route: `/api/products/:id`
 - Params: product UUID
 - Returns: Complete product object including:
 - All product fields
 - Category details (join with Categories table)
 - Image URL from Cloudinary
 - Stock information
 - Error handling: 404 if product not found
-

Task 2.2: Test Update Product

File Already Exists: `backend/src/controllers/productController.js`

Function: `updateProduct` (already scaffolded)

Testing Scenarios:

1. Update Product Details Only (No Image Change)

- Update title
- Update description
- Update price
- Update stock
- Update category_id (to valid category UUID)

2. Update Product with New Image

- Upload new image to Cloudinary
- Update img_url in database
- **Important:** Delete old image from Cloudinary
- Extract publicId from old URL
- Call `deleteFromCloudinary(publicId)`

3. Update Some Fields, Keep Others

- Partial updates should work
- Fields not sent should remain unchanged

Edge Cases to Test:

- Invalid product UUID (404)
- Invalid category_id (foreign key error)
- Image upload fails (should rollback)
- Very large images (should handle file size limit)

Task 2.3: Test Delete Product

File Already Exists: `backend/src/controllers/productController.js`

Function: `deleteProduct` (already scaffolded)

Testing Scenarios:

1. Basic Delete

- Delete product with valid UUID
- Verify product removed from database
- Verify image deleted from Cloudinary

2. Extract publicId from Cloudinary URL

- URL format: `https://res.cloudinary.com/drmza0a9d/image/upload/v1234567890/products/abc123.jpg`
- publicId: `products/abc123`
- Implement helper function: `extractPublicIdFromUrl(url)`

3. Handle Delete Failures

- Product has active orders (decide: prevent delete or soft delete)
- Product not found (404)
- Cloudinary delete fails (log error but don't fail request)

Implementation Decision:

- **Soft Delete** (Recommended): Add `is_deleted` boolean to Products table
 - **Hard Delete**: Actually remove from database (simpler for MVP)
-

Task 2.4: Add Advanced Filtering to getAllProducts

File to Modify: `backend/src/controllers/productController.js`

Function: `getAllProducts` (enhance existing)

New Query Parameters to Support:

1. Category Filter

- Query param: `?category_id=uuid`
- Filter products by category

2. Price Range Filter

- Query params: `?min_price=500&max_price=2000`
- Filter products within price range

3. Search by Title

- Query param: `?search=necklace`

- Case-insensitive search in product title

4. Sort Options

- Query param: `?sort=price_asc` or `?sort=price_desc`
- Sort by: price (ascending/descending), created_at (newest first)

5. Pagination

- Query params: `?page=1&limit=20`
- Default: page=1, limit=20
- Returns: products array + metadata (totalCount, totalPages, currentPage)

6. Stock Filter

- Query param: `?in_stock=true`
- Filter only products with stock > 0

Example Combined Query:

```
GET /api/products?  
category_id=uuid&min_price=500&max_price=2000&search=pink&sort=price_asc&page=1&limit=20
```

Implementation Notes:

- Use Supabase query builder `.filter()`, `.gte()`, `.lte()`, `.ilike()`
- Build query conditionally based on provided params
- Add proper error handling for invalid params

Task 2.5: Add Product Routes

File to Modify: `backend/src/routes/products.js`

New Route to Add:

```
GET /api/products/:id - Get single product
```

Verify Existing Routes:

GET /api/products - Get all products (with filters)
POST /api/admin/products - Create product (already working)
PUT /api/admin/products/:id - Update product
DELETE /api/admin/products/:id - Delete product







Task 2.6: Create Helper Utilities

File to Create: `backend/src/utls/cloudinaryHelpers.js`

Functions:

1. `extractPublicIdFromUrl(cloudinaryUrl)`
 - Extracts publicId from full Cloudinary URL
 - Example: `https://res.cloudinary.com/.../products/abc.jpg` → `products/abc`
 2. `validateImageUrl(url)`
 - Check if URL is from Cloudinary domain
 - Validate URL format
 3. `getOptimizedUrl(publicId, transformations)`
 - Generate optimized Cloudinary URLs
 - For thumbnails, different sizes, formats
-

Day 2 Deliverables:

-  `getProductById` implemented and tested
 -  `updateProduct` fully tested (with/without image)
 -  `deleteProduct` fully tested (with Cloudinary cleanup)
 -  Advanced filtering implemented in `getAllProducts`
 -  Helper utilities created for Cloudinary operations
 -  All product routes working and documented
-

DAY 3: Product Variants System

Objective:

Enable products to have variants (different colors, sizes, materials) as per database schema.

Background:

According to your schema:

- `products` table has `has_variants` boolean field
 - `product_variants` table stores variant details (SKU, attributes, price, stock, image)
 - Variants have JSONB `attributes` field: `{"color": "Pink", "size": "Small"}`
-

Tasks for Day 3:

Task 3.1: Understand Variant Architecture

Use Cases:

1. **Product WITHOUT Variants** (Simple Product)
 - Example: "Custom Name Necklace" - one size, no color options
 - `has_variants = false`
 - Stock and price stored in `products` table
2. **Product WITH Variants** (Variable Product)
 - Example: "Heart Ring" - available in Gold/Silver, sizes 6/7/8
 - `has_variants = true`
 - Each variant has its own SKU, price, stock, image
 - Variants stored in `product_variants` table

Variant Attributes Examples:

- Jewelry: `{"metal": "Gold", "size": "7"}`
 - Soft Toys: `{"color": "Pink", "size": "Medium"}`
 - Accessories: `{"color": "Blue", "pattern": "Floral"}`
-

Task 3.2: Create Variant Controller

File to Create: `backend/src/controllers/variantController.js`

Functions to Implement:

1. `createVariant`

- Purpose: Admin adds variant to existing product
- Method: POST
- Route: `/api/admin/products/:productId/variants`
- Required Fields:
 - `product_id` (from URL param)
 - `sku` (unique variant SKU)
 - `attributes` (JSONB: color, size, etc.)
 - `price` (variant-specific price, optional)
 - `stock` (variant stock quantity)
- Optional Fields:
 - `weight` (for shipping calculations)
 - `img_url` (variant-specific image)
 - `is_default` (default variant for product)
- Validations:
 - Product must exist
 - Product must have `has_variants = true`
 - SKU must be unique
 - Attributes must be valid JSONB
- Returns: Created variant object

2. `getVariantsByProductId`

- Purpose: Fetch all variants for a specific product
- Method: GET
- Route: `/api/products/:productId/variants`
- Returns: Array of variants with all fields
- Use case: Product Detail Page shows all available options

3. `getVariantById`

- Purpose: Get single variant details
- Method: GET
- Route: /api/variants/:variantId
- Returns: Single variant object
- Use case: Cart/Order needs specific variant info

4. **updateVariant**

- Purpose: Admin updates variant details
- Method: PUT
- Route: /api/admin/variants/:variantId
- Updatable Fields:
 - SKU
 - Attributes (JSONB)
 - Price
 - Stock
 - Weight
 - Image URL
 - is_default status
- Returns: Updated variant object

5. **deleteVariant**

- Purpose: Admin removes variant
- Method: DELETE
- Route: /api/admin/variants/:variantId
- Important Checks:
 - Check if variant is in active orders
 - Prevent deletion if last variant (product must have at least 1 variant)
- Optional: Delete variant image from Cloudinary
- Returns: Success message

6. **updateVariantStock**

- Purpose: Update stock quantity (separate from full update)
 - Method: PATCH
 - Route: `/api/admin/variants/:variantId/stock`
 - Body: `{ stock: 50 }`
 - Use case: Quick stock adjustments
 - Returns: Updated variant with new stock count
-

Task 3.3: Create Variant Routes

File to Create: `backend/src/routes/variants.js`

Public Routes:

`GET /api/products/:productId/variants` - Get all variants for product
`GET /api/variants/:variantId` - Get single variant details

Admin Routes:

`POST /api/admin/products/:productId/variants` - Create variant
`PUT /api/admin/variants/:variantId` - Update variant
`PATCH /api/admin/variants/:variantId/stock` - Update stock only
`DELETE /api/admin/variants/:variantId` - Delete variant

Task 3.4: Update Product Controller for Variants

File to Modify: `backend/src/controllers/productController.js`

Changes Needed:

1. **Modify** `createProduct`
 - Add `has_variants` field to insert
 - Default: `has_variants = false`
2. **Modify** `getProductById`
 - If product has variants (`has_variants = true`), fetch all variants
 - Return product object with nested `variants` array

- Example response:

json

```
{
  "id": "uuid",
  "title": "Heart Ring",
  "has_variants": true,
  "variants": [
    {
      "id": "variant-uuid-1",
      "sku": "RING-GOLD-7",
      "attributes": {"metal": "Gold", "size": "7"},
      "price": 1299,
      "stock": 10
    },
    {
      "id": "variant-uuid-2",
      "sku": "RING-SILVER-7",
      "attributes": {"metal": "Silver", "size": "7"},
      "price": 999,
      "stock": 15
    }
  ]
}
```

3. Modify `getAllProducts`

- Option 1: Include variant count in product list
- Option 2: Don't fetch variants in list view (only in detail view)
- Recommended: Option 2 for performance

Task 3.5: Create Variant Image Upload Endpoint

Purpose: Upload variant-specific images (e.g., ring in gold vs silver)

File to Modify: `backend/src/routes/admin.js`

New Route:

POST `/api/admin/variants/:variantId/image`

Implementation:

- Use same Multer middleware as product images
 - Upload to Cloudinary in `products/variants/` folder
 - Update variant's `img_url` field
 - Delete old variant image if exists
-

Task 3.6: Testing Variant System

Test Scenarios:

1. Create Product WITH Variants

- Create base product with `has_variants = true`
- Create 3-5 variants with different attributes
- Verify each variant has unique SKU
- Verify JSONB attributes stored correctly

2. Create Product WITHOUT Variants

- Create base product with `has_variants = false`
- Attempt to create variant (should fail or warn)
- Stock/price stored in product table

3. Get Product with Variants

- Fetch product by ID
- Verify variants array included
- Check all variant details present

4. Update Variant

- Update price
- Update stock
- Update attributes (change color/size)
- Upload variant-specific image

5. Delete Variant







- Delete variant with no orders

- Attempt to delete last variant (should fail)
- Attempt to delete variant in active order (should prevent)

6. Stock Management

- Update variant stock via PATCH endpoint
 - Verify stock decrements after order (implement later)
-

Day 3 Deliverables:

-  `variantController.js` created with all CRUD functions
 -  `variants.js` routes created and registered
 -  Product controller updated to handle variants
 -  Variant image upload endpoint created
 -  Comprehensive variant testing completed
 -  Sample products with variants created for testing
-

DAY 4: Testing, Error Handling & Validation

Objective:

Ensure all backend endpoints are robust, secure, and production-ready.

Tasks for Day 4:

Task 4.1: Comprehensive API Testing

Tool Setup:

- Use Postman or Thunder Client
- Create organized collection with folders:
 - Categories
 - Products
 - Variants
 - Admin Operations

Test Each Endpoint:

1. Happy Path Tests

- All endpoints work with valid data
- Correct status codes (200, 201, 204)
- Correct response format

2. Error Path Tests

- Invalid UUIDs (404)
- Missing required fields (400)
- Duplicate entries (409)
- Foreign key violations (400)
- Invalid data types (400)

3. Edge Cases

- Very long text inputs
- Special characters in names
- Zero/negative prices
- Negative stock quantities
- Empty arrays/objects
- Null values where not allowed

4. Performance Tests

- Large product lists (pagination)
 - Multiple filters applied
 - Response times under 500ms
-

Task 4.2: Add Input Validation

File to Create: `backend/src/middlewares/validation.js`

Validation Rules to Implement:

1. Product Validation

- Title: required, string, 3-200 characters

- Description: optional, string, max 2000 characters
- Price: required, positive integer
- Stock: required, non-negative integer
- SKU: required, string, unique, 3-50 characters
- Category_id: optional, valid UUID format

2. Category Validation

- Name: required, string, 3-100 characters, unique
- Description: optional, string, max 500 characters

3. Variant Validation

- SKU: required, string, unique, 3-50 characters
- Attributes: required, valid JSONB object
- Price: optional, positive integer
- Stock: required, non-negative integer
- Weight: optional, positive number

Validation Library Options:

- Option 1: `express-validator` (popular, express-specific)
- Option 2: `joi` (schema validation)
- Option 3: `zod` (TypeScript-friendly)

Implementation:

- Create validation middleware for each entity
- Apply to routes before controller functions
- Return 400 with clear error messages

Task 4.3: Enhance Error Handling

File to Create: `backend/src/middlewares/errorHandler.js`

Centralized Error Handler:

1. Error Types to Handle

- Database errors (Supabase/PostgreSQL)
- Validation errors
- Authentication errors (future)
- Cloudinary upload errors
- Not found errors (404)
- Conflict errors (409)

2. Error Response Format

```
json
{
  "success": false,
  "error": {
    "code": "VALIDATION_ERROR",
    "message": "Product title is required",
    "field": "title"
  }
}
```

3. Error Logging

- Log errors to console (development)
- Log errors to file (production)
- Future: Send to error tracking service (Sentry)

Update All Controllers:

- Use centralized error handler
- Throw specific error types
- Include helpful error messages

Task 4.4: Add Request Logging

File to Create: `backend/src/middlewares/logger.js`

Purpose: Log all incoming requests for debugging

Information to Log:

- Request method (GET, POST, etc.)
- Request URL
- Request body (sanitize sensitive data)
- Response status code
- Response time
- IP address
- User agent

Implementation:

- Use `morgan` middleware for HTTP request logging
 - Custom middleware for additional logging
 - Different log levels: development vs production
-

Task 4.5: Database Query Optimization

Review and Optimize:

1. Add Database Indexes

- Index on `products.category_id` (foreign key)
- Index on `products.sku` (unique, frequently queried)
- Index on `product_variants.product_id` (foreign key)
- Index on `product_variants.sku` (unique)
- Index on `categories.name` (unique, frequently queried)

2. Optimize Queries

- Use `.select()` to fetch only needed columns
- Avoid N+1 queries (fetch related data in single query)
- Use `.limit()` and `.offset()` for pagination
- Use `.count()` for total count queries

3. Add Query Helpers

- File: `backend/src/utls/queryHelpers.js`

- Function: `buildProductFilters(queryParams)`
 - Function: `paginateResults(query, page, limit)`
-

Task 4.6: API Documentation

File to Create: `backend/docs/API.md`

Document Each Endpoint:

Format for each endpoint:

markdown

POST /api/admin/products

****Description:**** Create new product with image upload

****Authentication:**** Admin only (to be implemented)

****Request:****

- Method: POST
- Content-Type: multipart/form-data
- Body:
 - image (file, required)
 - title (string, required)
 - description (string, optional)
 - price (integer, required)
 - stock (integer, required)
 - sku (string, required)
 - category_id (uuid, optional)

****Response (201):****

```
{
  "success": true,
  "message": "Product created successfully",
  "data": {
    "id": "uuid",
    "title": "Pink Heart Necklace",
    ...
  }
}
```

****Errors:****

- 400: Missing required fields
- 409: SKU already exists
- 500: Server error

Organize by Resource:

- Categories
 - Products
 - Variants
 - Future: Cart, Orders, Payments
-

Day 4 Deliverables:

- ☒ Complete API testing with Postman collection
 - ☒ Input validation middleware implemented
 - ☒ Centralized error handling implemented
 - ☒ Request logging added
 - ☒ Database queries optimized with indexes
 - ☒ API documentation created
 - ☒ All endpoints tested for edge cases
-

DAY 5: Polish, Documentation & Preparation

Objective:

Finalize backend core, create comprehensive documentation, and prepare for frontend integration.

Tasks for Day 5:

Task 5.1: Code Review & Refactoring

Review All Controllers:

- Check for code duplication
- Extract common logic into helper functions
- Ensure consistent naming conventions
- Add JSDoc comments to functions

File Structure Audit:

```
backend/src/
├── config/
│   ├── supabaseClient.js    ✓ Review
│   ├── cloudinary.js        ✓ Review
│   └── multer.js            ✓ Review
├── controllers/
│   ├── productController.js  ✓ Review & refactor
│   ├── categoryController.js  ✓ Review & refactor
│   └── variantController.js   ✓ Review & refactor
├── routes/
│   ├── admin.js              ✓ Review
│   ├── products.js           ✓ Review
│   ├── categories.js          ✓ Review
│   └── variants.js           ✓ Review
├── services/
│   └── cloudinaryService.js   ✓ Review
├── middlewares/
│   ├── errorHandler.js       ✓ Review
│   ├── validation.js          ✓ Review
│   └── logger.js              ✓ Review
├── utils/
│   ├── cloudinaryHelpers.js   ✓ Review
│   └── queryHelpers.js        ✓ Review
└── index.js                   ✓ Review
```

Task 5.2: Environment Variables Documentation

File to Update: `backend/.env.example`

Complete List:

env

```
# Server
NODE_ENV=development
PORT=5000
FRONTEND_URL=http://localhost:5173

# Supabase
SUPABASE_URL=your_supabase_url
SUPABASE_SERVICE_ROLE_KEY=your_service_role_key
SUPABASE_ANON_KEY=your_anon_key

# Cloudinary
CLOUDINARY_CLOUD_NAME=your_cloud_name
CLOUDINARY_API_KEY=your_api_key
CLOUDINARY_API_SECRET=your_api_secret

# Future: Payment (Phase 2)
RAZORPAY_KEY_ID=
RAZORPAY_KEY_SECRET=

# Future: Shipping (Phase 2)
SHIPROCKET_API_KEY=
SHIPROCKET_EMAIL=
SHIPROCKET_PASSWORD=
```

Create Setup Guide:

- File: `backend/docs/SETUP.md`
- How to get each credential
- Step-by-step setup instructions
- Common setup issues and solutions

Task 5.3: Database Seeding Scripts

File to Create: `backend/scripts/seedDatabase.js`

Purpose: Quickly populate database with test data

Seed Data to Create:

1. Categories (10 items)

- Necklaces, Rings, Bracelets, Earrings, etc.

2. Products (20-30 items)

- Mix of simple products (no variants)
- Mix of products with variants
- Various price points (₹299 - ₹2999)
- Different categories

3. Product Variants (40-50 items)

- For products with variants
- Different colors, sizes, materials
- Realistic stock quantities

Script Features:

- Check if data already exists (don't duplicate)
- Upload sample images to Cloudinary
- Return summary of seeded data
- Option to clear existing data first

Run Command:

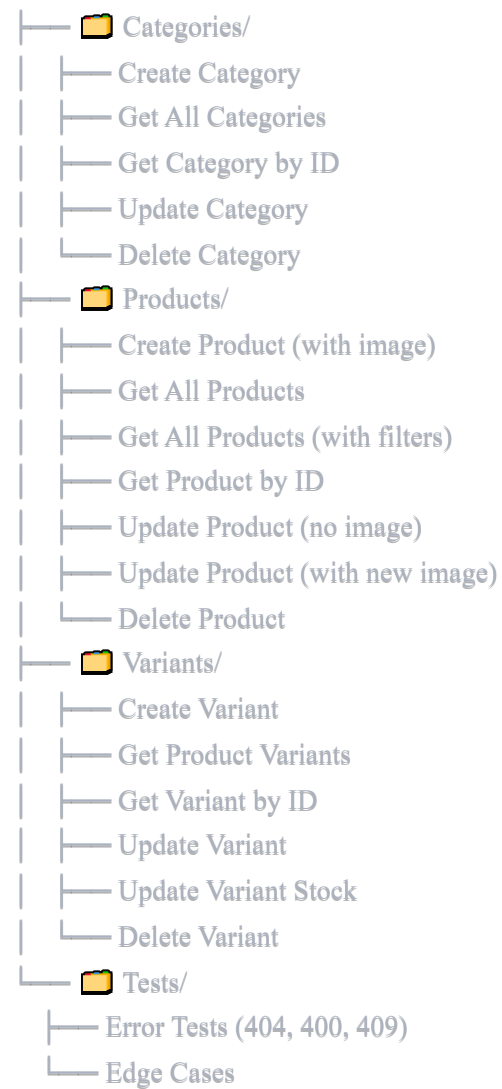
```
bash  
  
npm run seed
```

Task 5.4: Create API Testing Collection

Tool: Postman or Thunder Client

Collection Structure:

The Petal Pouches API/



Export Collection:

- Save as JSON file
- Add to repo: `backend/postman/`
- Include environment variables file

Task 5.5: Performance & Security Audit

Performance Checks:

1. Response Times

- All endpoints under 500ms
- Image upload under 3 seconds
- Pagination working efficiently

2. Database Queries

- No N+1 query problems
- Proper use of indexes
- Efficient joins

3. File Uploads

- Multer