

India, the world's largest rice producer

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Agriculture

Why in News?

India has overtaken China to become the world's largest rice producer, as announced by the Minister of Agriculture & Farmers welfare.

- Paddy (rice) is a **staple crop** for much of the world's population.
- The cycle of growing rice is about 190 days, and the harvest seasons last for at least 30 days.
- **Cropping seasons** - Rice is majorly a **kharif crop**, it is also grown in different seasons in different parts based on rainfall, temperature, water availability, soil types, and other climatic conditions.
 - **Kharif (Monsoon/Wet Season: July-December)** - Rice is the primary Kharif crop in India and is grown mainly under rainfed conditions.
 - **Rabi (Dry Season: January-June)** - Rice is grown in many states during the rabi season, where assured irrigation is available.
 - **Zaid Season (Summer: March-June)** - Paddy is also cultivated along with other summer crops on assured irrigated land, before the monsoon begins.
- **Growing Conditions-** Paddy crop is best suited to regions which have **high humidity, prolonged sunshine** and an assured supply of water.
 - **Temperature** - 20-35°C, and the maximum temperature that the crop can tolerate is 40-42° C.
 - **Rainfall** - 100-200 cm annually (or assured irrigation)
 - **Soil** - Sandy to clay, pH from 3 to 10, organic matter
 - content from 1 to 50% and salt content from 0 to 1 % with high water-retention capacity.
 - **Humidity** - High humidity favours healthy crop growth.
- **Global Production -**
 - **Highest Producer** - India beats China with a total output of 150.18

million tonnes.

- **Highest Exporter** - India.
- **Highest Importer** - Philippines, followed by Vietnam as the 2nd-largest importer.

The top 3 rice-producing countries in the world are India (~150 MT), China (~145 MT), and Bangladesh.

The largest rice-producing states of India

- Uttar Pradesh (13.82%),
- Telangana (11.62%),
- West Bengal (10.67%),
- Followed by others such as Punjab (9.56%), Chhattisgarh (6.9%), Odisha (6.34%), Madhya Pradesh (6.07%), Bihar (5.53%), Andhra Pradesh (5.43%), and Tamil Nadu (4.72%).

- **Role of High-yield variety seeds** - High-Yielding Variety Seeds (HYV seeds) are seeds of better quality than normal quality seeds.
- Boost crop production with *higher output per hectare* compared to traditional varieties.
- Enhanced climate resilience in some varieties.
- Has more potential against insects and diseases, and intends to enhance farmers' income.

References

1. [The Indian Express | India, the world's largest rice producer](#)
2. [The Economic Times | India, the world's largest rice producer](#)