

Palm Oil Production in India

Why in News?

Recently, India has emerged as Malaysia's largest importer of germinated oil palm seeds, with demand surging as the country accelerates efforts to boost domestic palm oil production and reduce import dependency.

- Palm oil is currently the ***world's most consumed vegetable oil***.
- **Top consumers** - India, China, and the European Union (EU).
- **Recent development** - India imported 3.03 million tonnes of palm oil from Malaysia in 2024, representing 17.9% of Malaysia's total palm oil exports and making it the top destination for Malaysian palm oil.
- **India's aim** - To rapidly expand palm oil cultivation to 1 million hectares by 2025-26 and achieve nearly 2.8 million tonnes of crude palm oil production by 2029-30 under National Mission on Edible Oils-Palm Scheme.

Palm Tree

- **Common names** - Betel nut, areca.
- **Family** - Arecaceae
- **Life span** - 25 years to more than 30 years while facilitating harvesting operations.
- **Constraints** - Slower height growth, an erect, slender-stemmed, single-trunked palm that can grow up to 30 m tall but normally trees are in between 10 to 15 m in height.
- **Growing condition** - Tropical conditions similar to many Indian regions with sufficient rainfall.

- Current Malaysian commercial seeds are suitable for cultivation in India with proper farming practices and adequate irrigation.
- Malaysia is promoting sustainably certified palm oil under the *Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO)* standard and enhancing productivity through research and development
- MPOB has developed high-yield palm varieties through selective breeding capable of producing over 30 tonnes of fresh fruit bunches (FFB) per hectare annually.
- This is nearly double Malaysia's national average yield of 15.47 to 16.73 tonnes per hectare recorded between 2020 and 2023.
- The improved varieties also have slower height growth, extending economic lifespan from 25 years to more than 30 years while facilitating harvest operations.
- **Usages** - Extensively used in the production of detergents, plastics, cosmetics, and biofuel.

National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm scheme

- **Aim** - To enhance the edible oilseeds production and oils availability in the country by harnessing Oil Palm area expansion, increasing CPO production and to reduce import burden on edible oils.
- **Focus** - Increasing edible oil production from Oil Palm.
- **Current land distribution** - 3, 70,000 hectares under palm oil cultivation as of mid-2025.
- **Focused areas** - Northeastern States and island regions.
- **Target** - To increase area of oil palm to 10 lakh hectares from 3.5 lakh hectares during 2019-20 by 2025-26 (additional 6.50 lakh ha) of which it is targeted for
 - **General state** - 3.22 lakh hectares
 - **North Eastern states** - 3.28 lakh hectares with targeted FFBS production of 66.00 lakh tonnes.

Reference

[The Hindu| India emerges as Malaysia's largest importer of germinating oil palm seeds](#)

