

Resource Wealth of India

Cropping seasons of India

1. Kharif
2. Rabi
3. Zaid

Cropping seasons	Sowing period	Harvesting period	Major crops
Kharif	June (Onset of monsoon)	Early November (End of monsoon)	Rice, maize, millets, cotton, jute, sugarcane, groundnut
Rabi	November (Beginning of winter)	March (Beginning of summer)	Wheat, tobacco, mustard, pulses
Zaid	March (Beginning of summer)	June (Beginning of monsoon)	Fruits, vegetables

Food crops of India

- The crops which can directly be consumed as food are called food crops.
- Rice, wheat, maize, barley, millets, pulses are the major food crops in India.

Rice

- Rice is the first major food crop produced in India.
- Rice is a kharif crop.
- Alluvial soil is most suitable for rice cultivation.
- Rice requires high temperature and a good amount of rainfall.
- Rice is being cultivated in regions with less rainfall with the aid of irrigation.
- Rice is mostly cultivated in river basins and coastal plains.
- Rice is also cultivated by making terraces along the slopes of Siwaliks.
- Rice is mostly cultivated in Up, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu.

Wheat

- Wheat is the second major food crop produced in India.
- Wheat is a rabi crop.
- Well drained alluvial soil is ideal for wheat cultivation.

- The crop which is mainly cultivated in temperate regions requires 10°C to 26°C temperature and 75 cm of rainfall.
- Wheat cultivation in India is mainly dependent on irrigation as it is a winter crop.
- Wheat is mostly cultivated in Punjab, Hariyana, Himachal Pradesh, UP, Madhya Pradesh.

Maize

- Maize is the third major food crop produced in India.
- In India, maize is cultivated in both summer and winter.
- Maize is cultivated in regions receiving an annual average rainfall of 75 cm.
- Well drained fertile soil is ideal.
- Maize is mostly cultivated in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Water transport

Water transport is the most convenient means to transport cargo on a large scale.

Advantages of water transport:

- The cheapest means of transport.
- Suitable for large scale cargo transport.
- Does not cause environmental pollution.
- Most suited for international trade.

Water transport can generally be classified in to two:

- 1) Inland water transport
- 2) Marine transport

Inland water transport

- ◆ Water bodies like rivers, lakes and canals are used for inland water transport.
- ◆ Inland water transport is utilised not only for passenger and cargo transport, but also for fishing and tourism.

Following are the water bodies largely used for inland water transport in India:-

- ◆ Ganga-Brahmaputra rivers and their tributaries.
- ◆ Godavari-Krishna rivers and their tributaries.
- ◆ Buckingham canal of Andhra -Tamil Nadu region.
- ◆ Mandovi and Zuvari rivers of Goa.
- ◆ Back waters of Kerala.

Five of the inland waterways in India were declared as national waterways after the formation of the Inland Water Transport Authority in 1986:

National Waterway 1 (NW 1)	Allahabad to Haldia in the river Ganga (1620 Km)
National Waterway 2 (NW 2)	Sadia to Dubri in the river Brahmaputhra (891 Km)
National Waterway 3 (NW 3)	The west coastal canal in Kerala from Kollam to Kottappuram (205 Km)
National Waterway 4 (NW 4)	Canal from Kakinada to Puducherry linking Godavari and Krishna (1095 Km)
National Waterway 5 (NW 5)	Brahmani - Mahanadi delta river system linked to east cost canal (623 Km)

Major ports in India



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