

Cash Crops in India

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Cash Crops in India. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

Cotton

Climatic & Soil Requirements



- **Nature:** Subtropical crop.
- **Temperature:** Requires at least 210 frost-free days; a hard frost is injurious.
- **Rainfall:** Needs 50-100 cm of rainfall for growth.
- **Sunlight:** Requires lots of sunshine.
- **Soil:** Ideally suited for light, well-drained soil capable of retaining moisture (e.g., black soil of the Deccan Plateau).

Production & Areas

- **Origin:** India is the original home of the cotton plant (mentioned in Rigveda and Manusmriti).
- **Innovation:** India was the first country to develop a hybrid cotton variety for increased production.
- **Historical Context:** Historically, the largest production came from North Western and Western India.
- **Major Producing States:** Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Telangana.

- **Current Leader (2020-21):** Gujarat is the largest producer.
- **Significance in Maharashtra:** In Maharashtra, cotton is the crop covering the largest area.

Terminology and Uses

- **Nickname:** Known as "White Gold" in Maharashtra. The districts of Ujjain and Shajapur in MP are also known as areas of "White Gold".
- **Plant Part Used:** Cotton fibre is obtained from the seed of the plant.
- **Classification:** It is classified as a fibre crop (along with Jute and Sunhemp).
- **Competition:** In Maharashtra's black soil region, cotton faces competition from sugarcane due to irrigation expansion making sugarcane more profitable.

Industry

- **Mill Concentration:** Tamil Nadu has the largest number of cotton textile mills in India.
- **State with Most Mills:** Among the options given, Maharashtra has the most mills.

Sugarcane

Climatic & Soil Requirements

- **Climate:** Requires a warm and damp (humid) climate.
- **Temperature:** Ideal temperature range is 21°C to 27°C.
- **Rainfall:** Requires 75-100 cm of annual rainfall.
- **Frost:** Frost during the ripening period decreases the sucrose content.

Production & Areas

- **Area Under Cultivation:** The state with the largest area under sugarcane cultivation is Uttar Pradesh.

- **Largest Producer:** The largest sugarcane-producing state is Uttar Pradesh (surpassing Maharashtra).
- **Other Major Producers:** Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Bihar.
- **Irrigation:** It has the highest percentage of irrigated area (over 93%) among major crops.

By-products and Processing

- **Molasses:** A by-product of sugar production, used for making alcohol.
- **Bagasse:** The crushed cane residue used as fuel in sugar mill boilers to generate steam.
- **Sources:** Sugar can be produced from both sugarcane and sugar beet.

Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI)

- **Purpose:** A practical approach to reduce seed cost and use resources more efficiently.
- **Benefits:**
 - Allows for effective practice of drip irrigation.
 - Increases the scope for intercropping.
- **Note:** It does not imply the complete absence of chemical/inorganic fertilizers.

Other Fibre Crops (For Comparison)

Jute

- **Temperature:** Requires temperatures between 24°C to 35°C.
- **Rainfall:** Needs heavy rainfall (125-200 cm).
- **Topography:** Grown in low-lying areas.

Sunhemp

- **Classification:** A fibre crop.
- **History:** One of the oldest fibre crops, cultivated since 600 B.C.

Sugar Industry in India: Key Facts

Global Standing

- India is the **world's largest producer** of sugarcane.
- India is the **world's largest consumer** of sugar.
- India contributes **over 15%** to the total global sugar production.
- After Brazil, India is the **second-largest producer of sugar** globally.
- The sugar industry is the **second-largest agro-based industry** in India (after cotton).

Major Producing States

- **Top States:** Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
- **Historical Ranking (2015-16):** Descending order: Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu.
- **Recent Ranking (2020-21):** Uttar Pradesh leads, followed by Maharashtra.
- **Nicknames:** Uttar Pradesh is known as the "Sugar Bowl of India".
- **Important Centers:** Sakkar Nagar is a major sugar-producing center in Andhra Pradesh (now in Telangana).

History and Location

- **First Mill:** The first sugar mill in India was established in 1903 at Pratappur in the Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Locational Shift:** There has been a shift of the sugar industry from North India to South India.
- **Reasons for Shift to South India:**
 - Higher yield of sugarcane per acre.
 - Higher sucrose content in sugarcane.
 - Longer crushing season.

Research and Varieties

- **Premier Institute:** The Sugarcane Breeding Institute (SBI) in Coimbatore is the premier institute for sugarcane research and seed production (established in 1912).
- **Important Variety:** Co. 1148 is an important and significant variety of sugarcane.
- **Adsali Sugarcane:**
 - Primarily cultivated in low-rainfall areas of Maharashtra.
 - It has a long maturation period of 18 months (planted in July-August).

Crop Characteristics

- Sugarcane is considered a **water-intensive crop**.
- It is the **least water-efficient** compared to crops like sunflower, pearl millet, and red gram.

Oilseeds: Facts & Figures

Major Oilseed Crops in India

- **Primary Crops:** Groundnut, Mustard, Coconut, Soybean, Castor seeds, Cotton seeds, Linseed, and Sunflower.
- **Specific Crops:**
 - **Sunflower** is a recognized oilseed crop.
 - **Groundnut** is the most suitable crop for dryland farming (relies on rainwater).
 - **Safflower** (scientific name: *Carthamus tinctorius*) is primarily grown in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Production & Leading States

- **Record Production:** India achieved a record production of 36.1 million tonnes of oilseeds in 2020-21.

- **State-wise Leaders:**

- **Soybean:** Madhya Pradesh is the leading producer and has the largest area under cultivation.
- **Groundnut:** Gujarat is the largest producer.
- **Rapeseed and Mustard:** Rajasthan is the largest producer and a leading producer of oilseeds overall.
- **High Yield States (Groundnut):** Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Rajasthan have high groundnut yield per hectare.

The Yellow Revolution

- The **Yellow Revolution** is related to the increased production of **Oilseeds**.
- **Distinction from other revolutions:**
 - Green Revolution: Foodgrains
 - White Revolution: Milk
 - Blue Revolution: Fish

Specific Crop Characteristics



- **Groundnut:**
 - Process: Undergoes "Pegging" where a fertilized peg grows into the ground.
 - Nutrient: Requires a large quantity of Gypsum.
 - Variety: An improved variety is called 'Kaushal'.
- **Mustard:**
 - Popular varieties include 'Varuna', 'Pusa Bold', and 'Pitambari'.
- **Oil Content Comparison:**
 - Sesame: ~52% (highest)
 - Groundnut: ~48%
 - Sunflower: ~42%
 - Soybean: ~40%

Classification & Oddities

- **Non-Cooking Oil:** Castor seed oil is not used for cooking, unlike oils from Sesame, Groundnut, and Mustard.
- **Plant Part:** Groundnut is a root crop, while others like Sesame and Mustard are flower-based.

Silk Production in India

Production by State (2019-20 Data)

- **Largest Producer Overall:** Karnataka is the largest silk-producing state in India.
 - It is the biggest producer of **mulberry silk**, accounting for **44.1%** of India's total production.
 - Contributes **31.1%** of the national production of raw silk.
- **Second-Largest Producer:** Andhra Pradesh, contributing **22.2%** to national raw silk production.

Silk Varieties and Their Leading Producers

- **Mulberry Silk:** Karnataka is the largest producer of both raw silk and silk textiles.
- **Tasar Silk:**
 - **Largest Producer:** Jharkhand.
 - **Tropical Tasar:** Primarily produced in Jharkhand.
 - **Oak Tasar:** Primarily produced in Manipur.
- **Eri Silk:** Assam is the largest producer (Meghalaya is also significant).
- **Muga Silk:**
 - A rare variety obtained only from India.
 - Assam is the leading producer, accounting for over **82%** of the production (Meghalaya is also a producer).

Types and Sources of Silk

- **General Classification:** The main silk varieties in India are: Mulberry, Tasar, Eri, and Muga.
- **Tussar Silk:** A type of wild silk from the moth *Antheraea Paphia*.
- **Specialized Types:**
 - **Gossamer Silk:** The delicate silk produced by spiders, used by spiderlings for flying.
 - **Ahimsa Silk (Peace Silk):** Produced without killing the silkworm.

Products from Insects

- **Silk:** Obtained from silkworms.
- **Honey:** Obtained from honeybees.
- **Lac:** Obtained from lac insects.
- **Pearl:** **NOT** obtained from insects; it is produced by mollusks.

Know More About Cash Crops in India:

- [Cash Crops in India – Old Year Questions](#)
- [Cash Crops in India One Liner Questions & Answers](#)