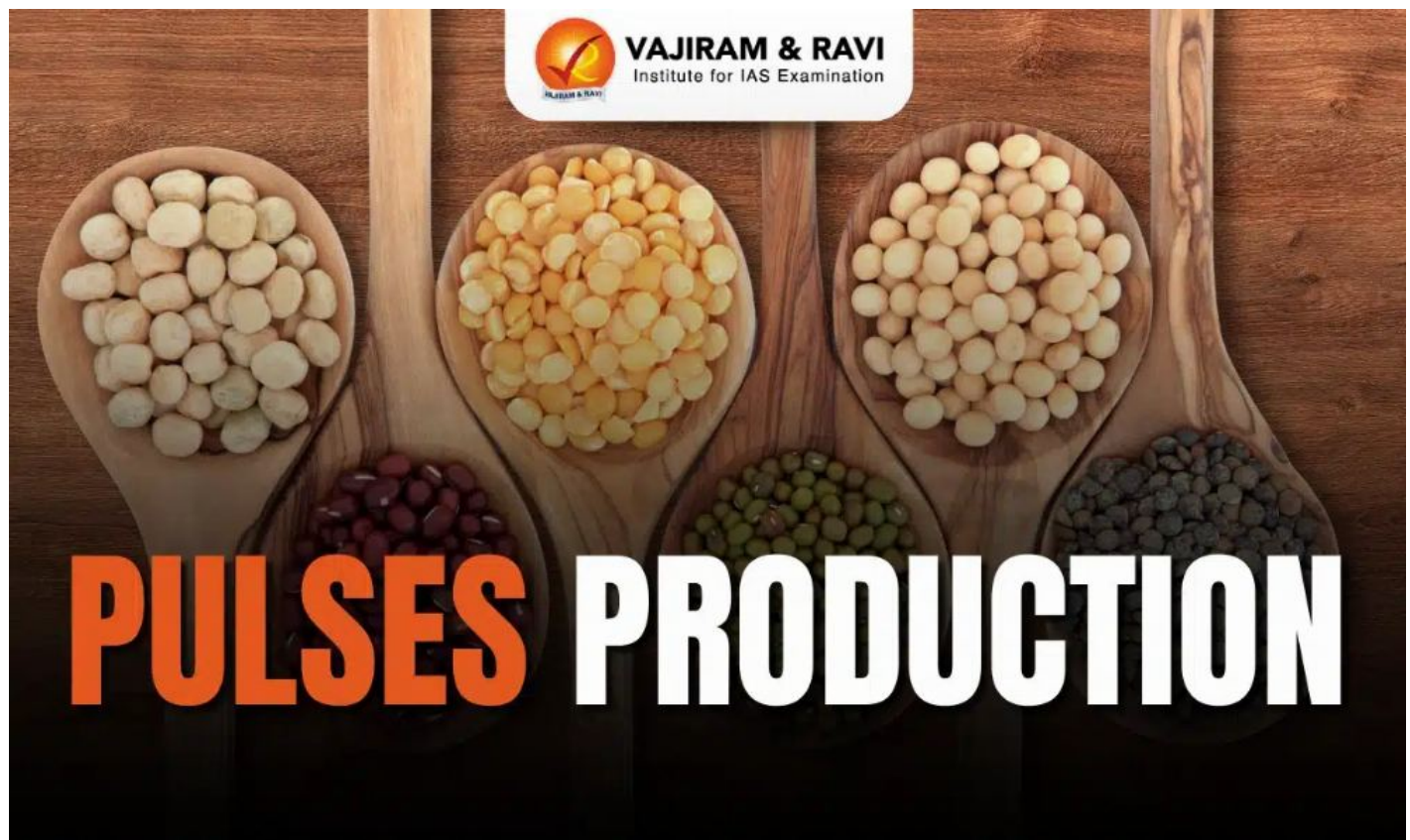


Pulses Production - NITI Aayog's Plan for Self-Sufficiency

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Pulses Production Latest News

- NITI Aayog has unveiled a roadmap to boost **pulses production in India**, aiming for self-sufficiency and reduced import dependence by 2047.

Introduction

- Pulses are central to India's food and nutritional security, providing protein-rich diets while also contributing to sustainable agriculture through nitrogen fixation and low water requirements.
- India is the world's largest producer, consumer, and importer of pulses, making self-reliance in production a national priority.
- Recognising this, NITI Aayog has released a report titled "**Strategies and Pathways for Accelerating Growth in Pulses towards the Goal of Atmanirbharta**", laying out a comprehensive roadmap to reduce import dependency and enhance domestic production.

Pulses Production in India

- India's diverse agro-climatic conditions allow the cultivation of 12 pulse crops across kharif, rabi, and summer seasons.
- Major producing states, **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan**, account for over 55% of production, while the top ten states contribute over 91% of the national output.
- Historically, the country's dependence on imports was high. Production dipped to 16.35 million tonnes (MT) in 2015-16, necessitating 6 MT of imports.
- However, government interventions, including the **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)** and **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** policies, improved output significantly.
- By 2022-23, production rose by nearly 59.4% to 26.06 MT, with productivity increasing by 38%. Import dependence simultaneously fell from 29% to just 10.4%.
- Despite this progress, challenges persist. **Nearly 80% of pulses cultivation is rain-fed**, making production vulnerable to climatic fluctuations.
- The **sector supports the livelihood of over five crore farmers** and their families, underscoring the importance of a stable policy framework.

NITI Aayog's Recommendations

- NITI Aayog's roadmap emphasises tailored interventions for different states and districts to boost productivity and sustainability. Key recommendations include:
 - **Area Retention and Diversification:** Encouraging region-specific crop clusters to optimise cultivation.
 - **Technology Adoption:** Promoting customised farming technologies suited for varied agro-ecological sub-regions.
 - **Seed Quality and Distribution:** Focusing on high-quality seed treatment kits and ensuring widespread distribution, particularly in 111 high-potential districts that contribute 75% of national output.
 - **Cluster-Based Hubs:** Introducing the "**One Block-One Seed Village**" model through **farmer-producer organisations (FPOs)** to enhance local productivity.
 - **Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses:** A six-year initiative targeting key crops such as pigeonpea, black gram, and lentil to further strengthen self-sufficiency.
- The report projects that India's pulse production will reach 30.59 MT by 2030 and 45.79 MT by 2047, aligning with the nation's long-term goal of food security and reduced import reliance.

Nutritional and Environmental Importance

- Beyond food security, pulses are vital for nutrition, especially in a country where vegetarian diets dominate.
- They are a major source of protein, iron, and other micronutrients, helping combat malnutrition.
- Environmentally, pulses enhance soil fertility through nitrogen fixation, require less water compared to cereals, and reduce the carbon footprint of agriculture.

Conclusion

- India has made remarkable progress in pulses production over the past decade, but achieving self-sufficiency requires sustained and region-specific interventions.
- NITI Aayog's strategic recommendations, focused on seeds, technology, and targeted clusters, are expected to accelerate progress towards Atmanirbharta in pulses.
- By 2047, India envisions not just meeting its domestic demand but also positioning itself as a key player in the global pulses market.

Source: TH

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