

Horticulture in India

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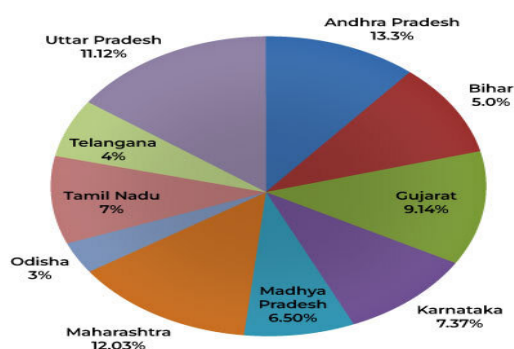
Introduction

In India, the major part of horticulture production comprises fruits and vegetables. India has a highly favorable climate for agro-products such as fruits, vegetables, spices, and aromatic plants. The horticulture sector in India produces around 320 million tons of products and contributes about 33% of the Gross Value Addition (GVA). It is a labour-intensive sector and thus provides a lot of employment opportunities, especially for

the people of rural regions. Horticulture has implemented cutting-edge methods that have enhanced productivity and export potential, leading to further expansion. 10% of the land in India is used for horticulture, which accounts for 33% of the agricultural value. India has advantageous topographical characteristics that promote the development of a wide range of vegetables. Vegetables of more than 40 different varieties are produced throughout India. Vegetable production in India is second in the world. More

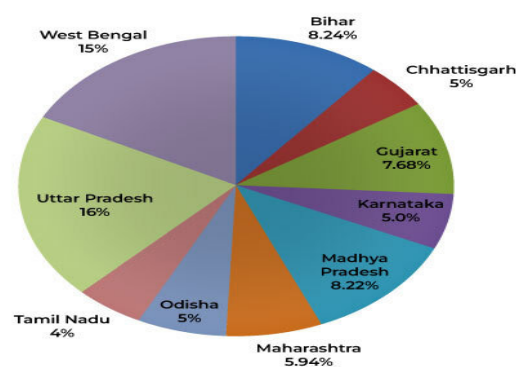
than 10% of the world's fruit production is produced in India. The majority of fruit is produced in Indian states like Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. In some parts of the country, the favourable climate encourages the production of a wide range of flowers all year long. The demand for flowers among the upper and middle classes for aesthetic purposes has increased, which has aided in the development of floriculture as a thriving industry.

Major Producing States



Fruits

- These states account for 74.51% of production



Vegetables

- These states account for 78% of production

Growth of horticulture in India

Between 2004–2005 and 2019–20, the productivity of horticultural crops increased by 38% in India. Because horticulture products are more resistant to changing weather conditions, their production is economical and practical. The requirement of area, water, and other resources are much less than other agricultural products and hence reduce the chance of failure thereby giving better returns and income opportunities.

Challenges and Constraints

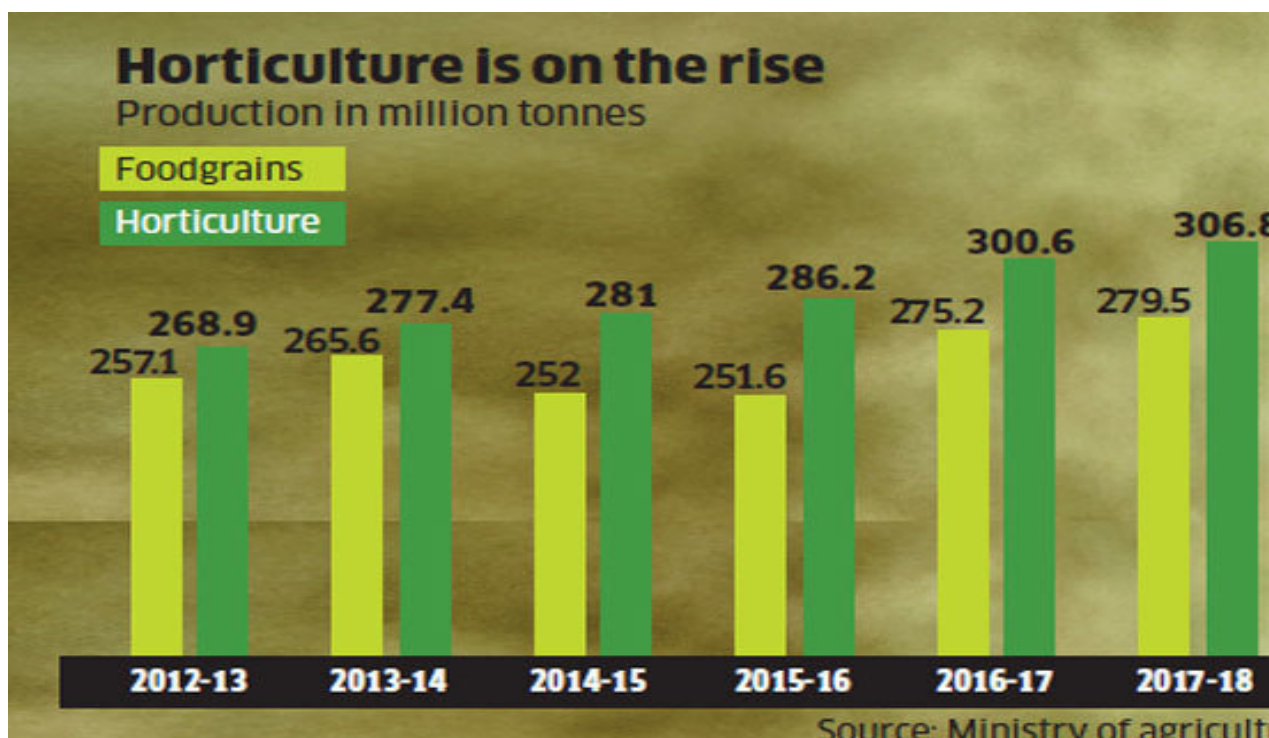
Despite its immense potential, the horticulture sector in India faces several challenges that hinder its growth and development. This section addresses the key challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, fragmented landholdings, post-harvest losses, pest and disease management, access to credit, and market linkages. Additionally, it discusses the constraints faced by small and marginal farmers and the need for inclusive

policies to address their concerns.

Achievements

- In the last few decades, this sector has gained prominence over contributing a growing share in Gross Value Addition of the Agriculture and allied sectors.
- **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)** is being implemented by adopting an end to end approach for increasing production of horticulture crops and reducing post-harvest losses.
- The production of fruits and vegetables has overcome the production of food grains in the country.
- The total horticulture production has increased from 211.2 million tonnes in 2007-08 to 311.71 million tonnes in 2018-19.
- India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world with first rank in the production of Banana, Mango,

Lime & Lemon, Papaya and Okra.



Government Initiatives and Policy Support

Recognizing the significance of horticulture in India's agricultural sector, the government has implemented various initiatives and policy measures to support its growth. This section provides an overview of the major government schemes, research and development efforts, and institutional support aimed at promoting horticulture. It also highlights the role of public-private partnerships and the need for collaborative efforts to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development in the sector.

Future Prospects and Recommendations

This section explores the future prospects and potential avenues for the horticulture sector in India. It discusses emerging trends such as organic farm-

ing, value addition, agro tourism, and farm-to-fork initiatives that can drive the growth of horticulture. Furthermore, it provides recommendations for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to address the existing challenges and tap into the untapped potential of horticulture for achieving sustainable development goals.

Conclusion

As a diverse agricultural function, the horticulture industry has grown to be a promising source of employment possibilities. It helps ensure both the sector's and the economy's continuous growth. India has developed into a top producer of horticulture goods and has become a dependable source for the creation of jobs, income, and export promotion. With the aid of better resource allocation, infrastructure development, technical advancement, and better policy implementation for the development of the horticulture industry, India is anticipated to attain a significant position in