



A Review

Production and export of pulses from India

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ABSTRACT : Pulses are the basic ingredient in the diets of a vast majority of the Indian population, as they provide a perfect mix of vegetarian protein component of high biological value when supplemented with cereals. During 2010-11, the country produced 18.09 Mt of pulses from 26.28 M ha area, with an average yield of 689 kg/ha. These figures make India the largest producer of pulses in the world. With the large population dependent on pulses for protein requirements, India is also the largest consumer and importer of pulses. Ironically, the country's pulse production has been hovering around 14–15 Mt, coming from a near-stagnated area of 22–23 M ha. The states viz., Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka were the leading pulse producing states. The share of these states in the total pulse area of the nation was 65.58 per cent contributing 75.86 per cent to the total production of pulse in the country. UAE, USA, Sri Lanka and Pakistan are the major buyers for Indian pulses. India's pulses imports are increasing drastically with the growth rate of 6.06 per cent per annum to cut down this and move towards exports there should be increase in production in the country. The favourable weather conditions and change in economic environment are found to be the important factors in increasing the production to meet the domestic as well as external demand.

KEY WORDS : Pulses, Production, Export, Growth rate

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INTRODUCTION

Pulses are the basic ingredient in the diets of a vast majority of the Indian population, as they provide a perfect mix of vegetarian protein component of high biological value when supplemented with cereals. Pulses are also an excellent feed and fodder for livestock. Endowed with the unique ability of biological nitrogen fixation, carbon sequestration, soil amelioration, low water requirement and capacity to withstand harsh climate, pulses have remained an integral component of sustainable crop production system since time immemorial, especially in the dry areas. They also offer good scope for crop diversification (grow profitably in relatively low-input manage management conditions) and intensification (short growing period).

During 2010-11, the country produced 18.09 Mt of pulses from 26.28 M ha area, with an average yield of 689 kg/ha. These figures make India the largest producer of pulses in the world. With the large population dependent on pulses for protein requirements, India is also the largest consumer and importer

of pulses. Ironically, the country's pulse production has been hovering around 14–15 Mt, coming from a near-stagnated area of 22–23 M ha, since 1990–91. During this period, an additional population of 350 million has been added, which led to a sharp decline in the availability of pulses from 41 in 1990–91 to 33 g/capita/day in 2009–10, doubling its import (from 1.27 to 2.35 million) and resulting in skyrocketing prices. Shortfall in pulses has been attributed to a number of factors, the major ones being the increasing population, rising income, geographical shift, abrupt climatic changes, complex disease–pest syndrome, socio-economic conditions and poor marketing opportunities.

India is the largest producer of pulses in the world, with 24 per cent share in the global production. The important pulse crops are chickpea (48%), pigeonpea (15%), mungbean (7%), urdbean (7%), lentil (5%) and field pea (5%). The major pulse producing states are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, which together account for about 80 per cent of the total production.

Over last 100 years, India's burgeoning population has