

CROP PRODUCTION IN UTTAR PRADESH

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The main types of crop in Uttar Pradesh are Rabi crops, Kharif crop, and Zaid crops. *These crops are briefly discussed below:*

Rabi Crops:

These crops are sown in winter season in October to December and harvested in the month of February to April. These crops need less water and average temperature. Important Rabi crops are wheat, barley, gram, masoor, potato, pulses, etc.

Some important rabi crops are given below:

Wheat:-

It is produced in the largest part of the state in about 24% agricultural land. Uttar Pradesh ranks first in wheat production. Ganga-Yamuna and Ganga-Ghaghara doab are the largest wheat producing area in which Gorakhpur, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Saharanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Muzaffarnagar, Moradabad, Kanpur, Etawah, Farrukhabad and Fatehpur are the main producers of wheat. Due to high rainfall the Eastern and North-Eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh have low yield of wheat.

Gram:-

It is the largest growing crop among all cereal crop in the state. Banda, Hamirpur, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Kanpur, Fatehpur, Sitapur, Barabanki, Allahabad and Agra are the main districts where gram is grown. Hamirpur is the largest producer of gram in the state.

Mustard:-

It is the largest growing crop in the state among all the oilseeds crops. Uttar Pradesh is the second largest producer of mustard in India after Rajasthan. Gonda, Bahraich, Mirzapur, Saharanpur, Sonbhadra, Kanpur, Sitapur, Etah, Meerut, Faizabad, Etawah, Sultanpur, Mathura, Aligarh and Bulandshahr are the main districts where mustard is grown.

Barley:-

It is grown best in sandy and alluvial soils. It is a short growing season crop and has good drought tolerance. Its geographic conditions are as same as the wheat. Uttar Pradesh is the second largest producer of barley after Rajasthan. Varanasi, Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Ballia, Mau, Ghazipur, Gorakhpur, Etah, Allahabad and Pratapgarh are the districts where barley is grown.

Kharif Crops:

The crops which are grown during the monsoon (rainy season) are called kharif crops. Seeds of the crops are sown in the beginning of the monsoon season (May to July). After maturation, these crops are harvested at the end of the monsoon season from September to October. These crops require high temperature and more water. Important crops of this season are rice, cotton, jute, sugarcane, arhar, bajra, groundnut, maize, etc. *Major crop of kharif season are discussed below:*

Rice:-

Uttar Pradesh ranks 2nd in India in the production of rice after West Bengal. It is sown in the Terai region which includes Shravasti, Maharajganj, Bahraich, Kushinagar, Deoria, Balrampur, Shahjahanpur, Mau, Varanasi, Lucknow, Ballia, Saharanpur and Pilibhit districts. Rice is extensively grown in Shahjahanpur.

Jute:-

It is a fibre crop which is grown in Terai belt and Saryu and Ghaghara Doab. Bahraich, Maharajganj, Deoria, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Sitapur and Lakhimpur-Kheri are the major centres for the cultivation of jute. This crop is sown in April-May and harvested in August-September.

Sugarcane:-

It is the most important cash crop in the state. Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the terms of production of sugarcane in the country. It is sown on the 13% of the total cultivable land in the state. It requires 100-200 cm rainfall and clayey loam soil. It is grown in two belts:

Terai Belt: It includes Rampur, Bareilly, Pilibhit, Sitapur, Lakhimpur-Kheri, Gonda, Faizabad, Azamgarh, Mau, Jaunpur, Basti, Ballia, Maharajganj, Deoria and Gorakhpur districts.

Ganga-Yamuna Doab: It includes Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahar, Aligarh, Saharanpur and Moradabad districts. Muzaffarnagar is the largest producer of sugarcane. Uttar Pradesh Council of Sugarcane Research was established in 1912 in Shahjahanpur.

Cotton:-

It is grown in the state in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab, Rohilkhand and Bundelkhand regions with the help of irrigation. In these regions, different varieties of cotton are grown like UP Deshi, Bengal cotton, Punjab cotton, American cotton, etc. Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar,

Meerut, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahar, Agra, Aligarh, Firozabad, Moradabad, Rampur, Kanpur, Bareilly, Manipuri, Mathura, Farrukhabad and Etawah are some districts of the state where cotton is grown.

Arhar:-

It is an important cereal crop in the state. Bajra and barley are sown along with this crop. Varanasi, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Allahabad, Hamirpur and Lucknow are the main districts where Arhar pulses are grown. Hamirpur is the largest producer of arhar crop.

Bajra:-

It is grown in May and July and harvested in September and December. It is produced by Agra, Aligarh, Moradabad, Mathura, Budaun, Firozabad, Etawah, Manipuri, Kanpur, Ghaziabad, Farrukhabad and Pratapgarh districts. Aligarh is the largest producer of bajra in the state.

Groundnut:-

It is mainly grown in the districts of Sitapur, Hardoi, Etah, Badaun, Moradabad, etc on a small scale. The cultivation of groundnut takes more time due to arid climate. It needs sandy soil for growth. It is sown in June and July and harvested in November and December.

Maize:-

Uttar Pradesh ranks third in the production of maize in India. It is a rainy crop. It is grown in the districts in the districts like Meerut, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr, Farrukhabad, Gonda, Jaunpur, Etah, Firozabad and Manipuri. Manipuri is the largest producer of maize in the state.

Zaid Crops:

Zaid crops are sown between Rabi and Kharif crops. These are grown in March-April and harvested in June-July. The zaid

crops require warm dry weather for growth and longer day length for flowering. The main zaid crops are watermelon, muskmelon, bitter gourd, pumpkin, cucumber and seasonal fruits and vegetables.