



## Kharif Strategy for Oilseeds

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### Why in News

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The **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** has formulated **Kharif Strategy 2021** to achieve **self-sufficiency in edible oils**.

### Kharif Season

- Crops are sown from June to July and Harvesting is done in between September-October.
- Crops are: Rice, maize, jowar, bajra, tur, moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut, soyabean etc.
- States are: Assam, West Bengal, coastal regions of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra.

### Key Points

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- **About the Kharif Strategy 2021:**
  - An ambitious plan for the **free distribution of high yielding varieties of seeds** to the farmers for the Kharif season 2021 in the form of mini-kits.
  - Strategy for both area and productivity enhancement has been formulated for **soybean and groundnut** under the **National Food Security Mission (Oil Seeds and Oil Palm)**.
  - It will bring an additional 6.37 lakh hectare area under oilseeds and is likely to produce 120.26 lakh quintals of oilseeds and edible oil amounting to 24.36 lakh quintals.

- **Basic Information Related to Oilseeds:**

- Oilseed crops are the **second most important determinant of the agricultural economy**, next only to cereals within the segment of field crops.
  - The self-sufficiency in oilseeds attained through the “**Yellow Revolution**” during early 1990’s, could not be sustained beyond a short period.
- Oilseed crops are **primarily grown for the purpose of obtaining vegetable oils from them**. Oil content in them varies from 20% in soybeans to 40% in sunflowers and canola (rapeseed).
- India is able to produce a huge amount of oilseeds because of the favourable environmental conditions.
  - Castor seed, sesamum, rapeseed, groundnut, mustard, soyabean, linseed, niger seed, sunflower and safflower are **some of the important oilseeds India is known to produce**.
- Despite **being the fifth largest oilseed crop producing country** in the world, India is also **one of the largest importers of vegetable oils** today.
  - India buys more than two-thirds of its total edible oil imports as **palm oil**.
- India has a marked position in the world in the production of a large amount of oilseeds.
  - After China, India is the **second largest producer of groundnut** and is **third in position in the production of Rapeseed** after China and Canada.
- **Major Oilseeds Producing Areas in India are:** Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh.

- **National Food Security Mission (Oil Seeds and Oil Palm):**
  - **Objective:**

To augment the availability of edible oils and reduce the import of edible oils by increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds and oil palm.
  - **Merger of NMOOP under NFSM:**
    - **National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm (NMOOP) was launched in 2014-15** and continued upto 2017-18.
    - **From 2018-19 onwards, the NMOOP is being implemented under NFSM** as NFSM-Oilseeds & Oil palm comprising the **sub components NFSM-Oilseeds, NFSM-Oil Palm and NFSM-Tree Borne Oilseeds (TBOs).**
  - **Multi-Pronged Strategy:**
    - Increasing **Seed Replacement Ratio (SRR)** with focus on varietal replacement.

**SRR** is the percentage of area sown out of total area of crop planted in the season by using certified/quality seeds other than the farm saved seed.
    - **Productivity improvement** by adoption of proven and **climatic resilient technologies** like water saving devices (sprinklers/rain gun), zero tillage, **inter-cropping**, relay cropping, strategic application of micronutrient and soil ameliorants.
    - **Area expansion** through diversification of low yielding food grains.
    - **Capacity building.**
    - **Supporting cluster demonstrations** for the adoption of good agricultural practices.
    - **Creation of 36 oilseed hubs** with a focus on regional approach for larger availability of quality seeds.
    - **Post-harvest management** at farm and village level.
    - Formation of **Farmer Producer Organisations.**
  - **Funding Pattern:**
    - The cost sharing pattern between Central and State Governments, is in the **ratio of 60:40 for general category of States and 90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan States.**
    - For few interventions, like purchase of breeder seeds by both State and Central seed producing agencies, supply of seed mini-kits to the farmers, **100% funding is provided by Government of India.**

**Source: PIB**