



GI Certified Bhalia Wheat: Gujarat

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Why in News

Recently, the first shipment of **Geographical Indication (GI)** certified **Bhalia variety of wheat** was exported to Kenya and Sri Lanka from Gujarat.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - The Bhalia variety of wheat **received GI certification in July, 2011.**
 - This Wheat has **high protein content and is sweet** in taste.
 - This crop is **grown mostly across the Bhal region of Gujarat** which includes Ahmedabad, Anand, Kheda, Bhavanagar, Surendranagar, Bharuch districts.
 - This variety is **grown in the rainfed condition without irrigation.**
- **Other GI products from Gujarat are:**

Latest is the **wooden printing blocks of Pethapur** and others are, **furniture made in Sankheda, agates from Khambhat**, Kutch embroidery, zari craft from Surat, patola from Patan, bandhani from Jamnagar, and Kesar mangoes from Gir.

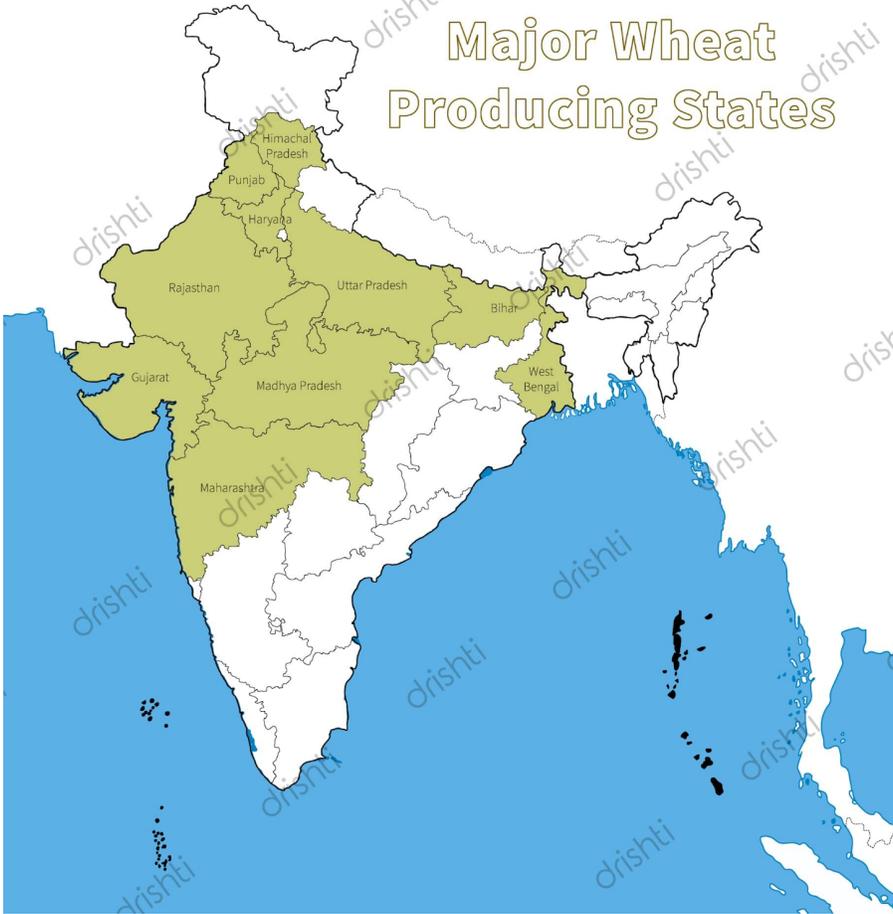
- **Geographical Indication Status:**

- GI is an indication used to **identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.**
 - It is used **for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods.**
- The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
 - The Act is **administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks**- who is the Registrar of Geographical Indications.
 - The Geographical Indications **Registry is located at Chennai.**
- The registration of a geographical indication is **valid for a period of 10 years.** It can be **renewed from time to time** for a further period of 10 years each.
- It is also a part of the **World Trade Organisation's** Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- **Recent Examples:** Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting, Telangana's Telia Rumal, Tirur Vetilla (Kerala), Dindigul Lock and Kandangi Saree (Tamil Nadu), Odisha Rasagola, Shahi Litchi (Bihar), etc.
- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority** (APEDA - Ministry of Commerce and Industry) has a focus on promotion of exports of GI products.
 - Recently, a consignment of Dahanu Gholvad sapota was exported from **Maharashtra's** Palghar district.

Wheat

- **Rabi Crop:** It is **sown in October-December** and **harvested during April-June.**
- **Temperature:** Between **10-15°C (Sowing time)** and **21-26°C (Ripening & Harvesting)** with bright sunlight.
- **Rainfall:** Around 75-100 cm.
- **Soil Type:** Well-drained fertile **loamy and clayey loamy** (Ganga-Satluj plains and black soil region of the Deccan).
- **Major wheat growing states** in India are Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Gujarat.
 - India is the **second largest producer** after China.
 - Success of the **Green Revolution** contributed to the growth of Rabi crops, especially wheat.
- Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana are few **government initiatives** to support wheat cultivation.
- The **wheat exports from India witnessed a significant growth of 808%** in the fiscal 2020-21.
 - India exported a substantial quantity of grain to **seven new countries** - Yemen, Indonesia, Bhutan, Philippines, Iran, Cambodia and Myanmar during 2020-21.

Major Wheat Producing States



Source: PIB