



# New Varieties of Turmeric

## Why in News

Recently, a high-yielding curcuminoid-rich variety of turmeric named **CIM-Pitamber** and the [NBRI's \(National Botanical Research Institute\) Keshari variety](#) have been introduced in Nabarangpur (One of the [Aspirational Districts](#)) of **Odisha**.

## Key Points

### ▪ CIM-Pitamber:

#### ◦ About:

- It is a high-yielding **curcuminoid-rich variety** of turmeric developed by [Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants \(CIMAP\)](#).
  - **High yielding varieties (HYV)** of seeds are those seeds which **produce huge quantities of crops** particularly wheat and rice.
  - Regular supply of water, maximum use of fertilisers and use of pesticides in an accurate proportion is needed to use these seeds.
- In this variety, **curcuminoid content is 12.5% more** than the existing variety.
  - **Curcuminoid** is a substance derived from turmeric which has anti-[cancer](#) properties, anti-inflammatory, anti-aging, anti-diabetic and has several medicinal properties.

#### ◦ Benefits:

- It can yield **50% more than the existing varieties** of turmeric and help farmers. It is also **tolerant to the leaf blotch disease of turmeric**.
- Turmeric with **high content of curcuminoid** is preferred by European nations and North America. Export and sale value will be more if curcumin content is more.

### ▪ Keshari variety:

- It is **tolerant to low temperature** and frost during winter. It has a **longer growth period** as compared to other varieties, which directly **reflects higher fresh rhizome yield** of high quality.
- In comparison to other existing varieties, there is **less problem of yellowing and falling of leaves** in this variety during winter, which leads to extending the life period of this variety.
- The total curcuminoid **content is around 1.16 %**, which is also more than other **existing cultivated varieties** of north India.

### ▪ Turmeric:

- Turmeric is a **flowering plant**, *Curcuma longa* of the **ginger family**, it is used as **condiment, dye, drug and cosmetic** in addition to its use in religious ceremonies.
- Its color comes mainly from **curcumin**, a bright **yellow phenolic compound**.
- India is a leading producer and exporter of turmeric in the world. India produces **80% of turmeric** in the world.

- **Telangana** was the leading producer of turmeric in India during 2018.  
**Maharashtra** and **Tamil Nadu** were second and third in the ranking that year.
- It can be **grown in diverse tropical conditions** from sea **level to 1500 m above sea level**, at a temperature range of **20-35° C** with an annual **rainfall of 1500 mm or more**, under **rainfed or irrigated conditions**.

### **Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants**

- It is a **frontier plant research laboratory** of [Council of Scientific and Industrial Research \(CSIR\)](#), **established in 1959**.
- It is steering multidisciplinary high quality research in biological and chemical sciences and extending technologies and services to the farmers and entrepreneurs of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs).
- It is **headquartered in Lucknow**.

### **National Botanical Research Institute**

- It is **one of the constituent research institutes of the CSIR set up in 1953**. It is **headquartered in Lucknow**.
- It undertakes **basic and applied research on various aspects of plant science**, including documentation, systematics, conservation, prospection, and genetic improvement.

**[Source: TH](#)**

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