



# Arka Shubha: New Marigold Variety

## Why in News

The **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)** has developed a new marigold variety named **Arka Shubha**.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- **High Carotene Content:** Arka Shubha has carotene content of around 2.8% (for all marigolds, it's maximum upto 1.4%) which is the highest among all plant sources.
- **Used after Spoiled:** This new variety of marigold can be used for extraction of crude carotene even if spoiled after full bloom, unlike that of other varieties.

### ▪ Significance:

- **Ornamental & Carotene Extraction:** This new variety not only has ornamental purpose but is also a good source of crude carotene.
- **Poultry Feed:** Its petals could be used as poultry feed to get quality yolk.
- **Reduce Import Dependency:** India imports most of its carotene from other countries, including China. This development can significantly reduce import dependency. Therefore, both cultivation area and investment on carotene extraction should be increased.

## Carotene

- Carotenes are carotenoid pigments that are oxygen-free. Mostly they are unsaturated hydrocarbons that contain only carbon and hydrogen.
- Their color varies from yellow to orange to red. The color is attributed to the chain of alternating single and double bonds.
  - Carotene is responsible for the orange colour of carrots.
- $\alpha$ -carotene,  $\beta$ -carotene, and lycopene are examples of carotenes.
- Carotene is used in the pharmaceutical sector, there is always a high demand for it.

## Indian Institute of Horticultural Research

- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research ([Indian Council of Agricultural Research](#)) is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- IIHR has a **main research station at Bengaluru** and regional experiment stations at Bhubaneswar in Orissa and Chettalli in Karnataka with two Krishi Vigyan Kendras.
- The institute's main research agenda was to increase the yields of horticultural crop varieties by developing high yielding varieties in fruits, vegetables, ornamentals and medicinal products.

[Source :TH](#)

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