



## Global Pulses Conference

**For Prelims:** [National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd](#), Global Pulse Confederation, Top Pulses Producing States, [Minimum support price](#), [National Food Security Mission \(NFSM\)-Pulses](#), [Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshana Abhiyan \(PM-AASHA\) Scheme](#), [Price Stabilization Fund](#)

**For Mains:** Status of Pulse Production in India, Concerns Related to Pulse Production in India.

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

The recent **Global Pulses Conference**, an annual gathering of pulses producers, processors, and traders, was recently jointly organised by the [National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. \(NAFED\)](#) and the **Global Pulse Confederation**.

- India is aiming to **achieve self-sufficiency in pulses by 2027**, focusing on expanding cultivation and supplying new varieties of seeds.

### What is the Global Pulses Conference?

- The **Global Pulse Confederation (GPC)**, represents all segments of the pulse industry value chain from growers, researchers, logistics suppliers, traders, exporters and importers to government bodies, multilateral organisations, processors, canners and consumers.
  - Its membership includes **24 national associations** and **over 500 private sector members**.
- It is based in **Dubai** and licensed by the **Dubai Multi Commodity Centre (DMCC)**.

### What is the Status of Pulse Production in India?

- About:** India is the **largest producer (25% of global production), consumer (27% of world consumption) and importer (14%)** of pulses in the world.
  - Pulses account for around 20% of the area under food grains and contribute around 7-10% of the total foodgrains production in the country.
- Top Pulses Producing States:** Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.
- Main Varieties:** Pulses are grown throughout the agricultural year.
  - Rabi Pulses (contribute over 60%):** Gram (chickpea), Chana (Bengal gram), Masoor (lentil), Arhar (pigeon pea).
  - Kharif Pulses:** Moong (green gram), Urad (black gram), Tur (arhar dal).
    - Rabi crops require **mild cold climate during sowing period**, during vegetative to pod development- cold climate and during maturity/ harvesting - warm climate.
    - Kharif pulse crops require a warm climate throughout their life from sowing to harvesting.



- **Major Export Destinations (2022-23):** Bangladesh, China, United Arab Emirates, USA and Nepal.
- **Significance:**
  - **Nutritional Powerhouses:** Pulses are **rich in [protein](#), fibre, vitamins, and minerals**, providing essential nutrients for human diets.
  - **Soil Enrichment:** They **fix [nitrogen](#) in the soil**, improving fertility and reducing the need for synthetic fertilisers due to their **leguminous nature**.
  - **Climate Smart Crop:** Pulses are drought-tolerant (water-efficient) crops and have a **lower carbon footprint** compared to many other crops, contributing to sustainability.
  - **Crop Health and Rotation:** Including pulses in crop rotations enhances soil structure, reduces **disease cycles, and suppresses weeds**, promoting healthier agricultural systems.
- **Related Concern:**
  - **Yield Gap: Lower productivity** of pulses in India compared to other major producers, causing dependence on imports to meet demand.
    - Farmers experience **reduced earnings due to lower pulse yields per acre**, despite the higher **[minimum support price \(MSP\)](#)**.
  - **Lack of Focus:** Historical emphasis on rice and wheat cultivation led to insufficient R&D and infrastructure for pulses.
  - **High Import Dependence:** India needs to import certain pulses despite being the largest producer to meet its domestic demand, impacting self-sufficiency.
- **Related Government Initiatives:**
  - **[National Food Security Mission \(NFSM\)-Pulses](#)**
  - **[Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan \(PM-AASHA\) Scheme](#)**
  - **[Price Stabilization Fund](#)**
  - **Dedicated Portal for Tur Dal Procurement:** Through which farmers can register and sell their produce to NAFED and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF) at a minimum support price or market price.

**What is NAFED?**

- **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.** was established on the auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti on **2<sup>nd</sup> October 1958**.
  - It is registered under the [Multi State Co-operative Societies Act](#).
- It is an apex organisation of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India.
  - It is currently one of the largest procurers of agricultural products like **onions, pulses, and oilseeds**.

## Way Forward

- **Towards Second Green Revolution:** Facilitating the availability of **certified high-yielding, disease-resistant pulse varieties** adapted to local agro-climatic conditions.
  - Encouraging seed banks, community seed systems, and public-private partnerships to ensure the timely availability of quality seeds to farmers, which is essential for **enhancing pulse production and productivity**.
- **Product Diversification and Value Addition:** Developing value-added products like **pulse flours, snacks, and protein supplements** to expand market reach and attract new consumers.
- **Comprehensive Farmer Support Programs:** Implementing comprehensive support programs for pulse farmers, including **access to credit, insurance coverage, and extension services**.
  - Strengthening **farmer producer organisations (FPOs)** to empower farmers collectively and enhance their bargaining power in the market.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. With reference to pulse production in India, consider the following statements: (2020)**

1. Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and rabi crops.
2. Green-gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.
3. In the last three decades, while the production of kharif pulses has increased, the production of rabi pulses has decreased.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (a)**

### Mains:

**Q.1** What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilize the yield of the crops in the system? **(2017)**

**Q.2** Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by United Nations. **(2017)**

