

Agriculture in India

India [ranks second](#) worldwide in farm output. Agriculture and allied sectors like forestry, logging and fishing accounted for 17% of the GDP and employed 49% of the total workforce in 2014.^[121] As the Indian economy has diversified and grown, agriculture's contribution to GDP has steadily declined from 1951 to 2011, yet it is still the largest employment source and a significant piece of the overall socio-economic development of India.^[122] Crop yield per unit area of all crops has grown since 1950, due to the special emphasis placed on agriculture in the five-year plans and steady improvements in irrigation, technology, application of modern agricultural practices and provision of agricultural credit and subsidies since the Green Revolution in India. However, international comparisons reveal the average yield in India is generally 30% to 50% of the highest average yield in the world.^[123] The states of [Uttar Pradesh](#), [Punjab](#), [Haryana](#), [Madhya Pradesh](#), [Andhra Pradesh](#), [Telangana](#), [Bihar](#), [West Bengal](#), [Gujarat](#) and [Maharashtra](#) are key contributors to Indian agriculture.

India receives an average annual rainfall of 1,208 millimetres (47.6 in) and a total annual [precipitation](#) of 4000 billion cubic metres, with the total utilisable water resources, including surface and [groundwater](#), amounting to 1123 billion cubic metres.^[124] 546,820 square kilometres (211,130 sq mi) of the land area, or about 39% of the total cultivated area, is irrigated.^[125] India's inland water resources including rivers, canals, ponds and lakes and marine resources comprising the east and west coasts of the Indian Ocean and other gulfs and bays provide employment to nearly six million people in the fisheries sector. In 2010, India had the world's sixth largest fishing industry.^[126]

India is the largest producer in the world of milk, jute and [pulses](#), and also has the world's second largest cattle population with 170 million animals in 2011.^[128] It is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton and [groundnuts](#), as well as the second largest fruit and vegetable producer, accounting for 10.9% and 8.6% of the world fruit and vegetable production respectively. India is also the second largest producer and the largest consumer of silk in the world, producing 77,000 tons in 2005.^[129] India is the

largest exporter of cashew kernels and cashew nut shell liquid (CNSL). Foreign exchange earned by the country through the export of cashew kernels during 2011-12 reached Rs.4,390 crore based on statistics from the [Cashew Export Promotion Council of India](#) (CEPCI). 131,000 tonnes of kernels were exported during 2011-12.^[130] There are about 600 cashew processing units in [Kollam, Kerala](#).^[131] India's foodgrains production remained stagnant at approximately 252 million tonnes (MT) during both the 2015-16 and 2014-15 crop years (July- June).^[132] India exports several agriculture products, such as Basmati rice, wheat, cereals, spices, fresh fruits, dry fruits, buffalo beef meat, cotton, tea, coffee and other cash crops particularly to the Middle East, Southeast and East Asian countries. It earns about 10 percent of its export earnings from this trade.^[17]