

Day 1 - Clear Prelims 2024 in 120 Days

NABARD and ICRIER have jointly released a groundbreaking report titled '**Prospects of India's Demand and Supply for Agricultural Commodities towards 2023**.' The report underscores significant shifts in consumer behavior, with a growing awareness of organic food. Notably, there has been a **transition in consumption patterns from cereals to pulses and oilseeds**.

One key revelation is the **surge in demand for fruits, vegetables, and processed foods**, attributed to **increased awareness of organic farming practices**, leading to **expanded areas for cultivation of organic crops**.

Two critical findings are worth highlighting:

1. India's Edible Oils Import Scenario:

- India stands as a net importer of edible oils, with a **striking 62% of the imported oil being palm oil**, known for its adverse health effects.
- The report links this trend to the **historical focus on cereal crops** during the Green Revolution, particularly in the wheat-rice cycle.

2. Pulses Supply-Demand Dynamics:

- India faces a considerable challenge in pulses production, with a Supply-Demand ratio as low as 0.4, indicating a precarious balance.
- Challenges in pulses production are attributed to **ineffective Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)**, primarily benefiting cereal farmers, and a **substantial yield gap**, with actual field yields lagging laboratory environment yields by as much as 50%.

This report serves as a critical insight into the evolving landscape of India's agricultural dynamics, shedding light on both positive shifts, such as the rise in organic awareness, and challenges that need urgent attention, including the need for targeted interventions in the pulses sector."

Food Items	Gap = Supply - Demand		
	2020-21	2025-26	2030-31
Rice	15.8	25.5	37.7
Wheat	7.6	15.4	25.5
Coarse Cereals	0.5	3.2	6.4
Cereals	23.9	44.2	69.6
Pulses	-3.9	-2.1	0.4
Foodgrains	20.0	42.0	70.0
Oilseeds	-0.1	-3.0	-6.0
Milk	2.5	31.7	76.2
Fruits	-0.3	4.0	10.6
Vegetables	1.6	8.3	18.4