

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades, ranging from light lime green to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central text.

# Agricultural Resources (Food Crops) of North East India - Rice

- ▶ Of the crops raised, food crops are by far the most important in the region. It is found that the food crops occupy more than 70 percent of the total cropped area.
- ▶ Of the food crops again, rice, which forms the staple food of the people of the region, is the most important and occupies about 70 percent of the cropped area. Next to rice comes pulses.

(Food Crops – The term food crops refer to the world’s major food supply derived from plants; a crop assumes human intervention through agriculture. In the main, food crops consist of grains, legumes, seeds and nuts, vegetables, fruit, herbs and spices, beverage plants such as tea and coffee, and so forth.)

## Rice

- ▶ Rice is the most important food crop of North East India.
- ▶ It is grown both in the plains and the hills.
- ▶ It is often said that the region, along with Southern China and South East Asia, is the original homeland of rice.
- ▶ That rice is intimately connected with the life of the region is obvious from the fact it not only forms the staple food for them but also many of their rituals and festivals are associated with sowing and harvesting of the crop.
- ▶ Festivals like Bihu of Assam, Wangala of Meghalaya, Thoubalchuma of Manipur, Hangrai of Tripura etc. are closely associated with cultivation and harvest.

- ▶ Depending on the season of cultivation, the rice grown in North East India can be divided into three varieties:
  - ✓ Aman or Sali
  - ✓ Aus or Ahu
  - ✓ Boro
- ▶ The Aman rice is planted in summer from late May to early September in wet fields and harvested in the period from late November to early January. Of the three, this is the most important from the viewpoint of area cropped and output.
- ▶ Aus or Ahu rice is sown in the months of March and April in dry fields and harvested in summer.
- ▶ Boro, also called as spring rice is grown in the low-lying areas of North East India. It is grown in the months of December and January in the low-lying areas where water level goes down to a few centimetres by this season. It is a quick-growing variety and can be harvested in April and May before the water level rises.
- ▶ Besides the three varieties the Bao rice is essentially a variety long of long-stemmed rice that can withstand a long period of deep and stagnant water. Its seeds are sown in spring when the ground remains dry and is harvested in winter when the water that accumulates over the ground in summer has dried up.

- ▶ Climatically and pedologically, the river valleys of North East India are suitable to produce rice.
- ▶ It being the most important staple, is grown not only on the plains but also on the hills.
- ▶ In fact, rice occupies more than two-thirds of the total land under cultivation in North East India.
- ▶ The yield of the local varieties of rice has been found to be poor.
- ▶ Hence of late, new and hybrid varieties, such as IR-8, Ch-63, Jaya, Ijong and Pusa etc have been introduced into the region.
- ▶ The production of these varieties is high and they now occupy about 60 percent of the land devoted to rice in the region.

## Rice growing areas of the states

- ▶ In Assam as much as 2 million hectares of land is given to rice. All the districts of the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys grow rice abundantly. It is only in North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong that rice is grown less because of terrain condition.
- ▶ In Meghalaya rice is grown both on the hill slopes and occasionally on valley bottoms. In three western districts i.e. Garo Hills, West, East and South, both spring rice and winter rice are grown. These districts have more denuded topography with fairly wide valley bottoms. Over the hill slopes spring rice is cultivated in the jhum fields. The four eastern districts, viz., West Khasi Hills, East Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi and Jaintia Hills generally grow winter rice on limited valley bottoms and a small quantity of hill rice over the slopes in the jhum fields.
- ▶ In Arunachal Pradesh rice is grown mainly in the jhum fields. In the limited valley bottoms, however, wet rice is grown. In the Apatani Plateau around Ziro in Lower Subansiri district, wet rice is grown by an ingenious method of irrigation. In recent years the farmers have been encouraged to construct terraces over hill slopes and grow wet rice in the state. This has some positive effect on Arunchal growing more rice now.

- ▶ In Nagaland rice occupies about two-thirds (60,000 ha) of the total land (90,000 ha) under agriculture. Rice is mostly grown here in the jhum-fields. However, in the Angami inhabited areas of Kohima district rice is found to be grown over terraces with a traditional method of irrigation which is very much ingenious and effective. Apart from this, the limited valley bottoms also produce wet rice in the state.
- ▶ In Manipur rice is grown mainly in the fertile Manipur Basin. Over the hill slopes, only a small quantity of rice is grown in the jhum fields. The Japanese method of rice cultivation was adopted in Manipur during the fourth five-year plan period. The yield of this crop is therefore high in this state compared to other regions of North East India relatively.
- ▶ In Mizoram rice is traditionally grown on the jhum fields. In recent period, however, the crop is seen to be grown over the newly created terraces on the hill slopes and on the occasional valley bottoms.
- ▶ In Tripura rice is grown both on the plains and on the hill slopes. In the hills the crop is grown partly on the terraced beds and partly in the jhum-fields. Aus, Aman and Boro varieties of rice are common in the plains.
- ▶ With a rapid increase in the population the rice production has fallen short of the requirement in the region. Efforts have been made to increase the production of the crop mainly by using high-yielding varieties of paddy and by bringing more land under it.

### Production and requirement of rice in North-East region in 2014

State	Production		Increase 2003 to 2014 (%)	Requirement as per 2014 population (‘000 tonnes)	Deficit/ Surplus (%)
	TE 2001-2003 (‘000 tonnes)	TE 2012-2014 (‘000 tonnes)			
Arunachal Pradesh	134.0	265.6	98.20	228.1	16.41
Assam	3905.0	4519.1	15.73	5143.1	-12.13
Manipur	378.0	594.3	57.23	449.1	32.34
Meghalaya	184.0	248.5	35.06	489.0	-49.19
Mizoram	99.3	67.3	-32.25	180.0	-62.63
Nagaland	199.0	381.9	91.89	326.8	16.85
Sikkim	22.4	20.6	-8.17	100.3	-79.49
Tripura	535.5	718.7	34.20	605.8	18.64
Total NE	5396.2	6805.3	26.11	7522.3	-9.53



Thank you!