

**NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
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A BRIEF REPORT ON POTATO PRODUCTION IN THE COUNTRY

The major potato growing states are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab, Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. More than 90% potato crop is grown in winter season (Rabi) under assured irrigation facility from October to March. The rest is being taken up during rainy season (Kharif). The area and production of potato in the country during 2015-16 is estimated around 20.64 lakhs ha and 455.99 lakhs MT respectively.

Area, production and productivity of potato during last 3 years

S. N.	YEAR	AREA	PRODUCTION	PRODUCTIVITY
		(LAKH HA)	(LAKH MT)	(TONES/HA)
3	2013-14	19.73	415.55	21.06
4	2014-15	20.76	480.09	23.13
5.	2015-16	20.63	455.69	22.09

Source: Horticulture Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi
* - 2nd Advance estimate of Govt of India

Approximately 220-225 lakh MT potatoes are stored in different cold storages of the country. Major potatoes were stored in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Status of kharif potato

Kharif potatoes are mainly grown in the states of H.P., Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Maharashtra states. Total area sown in H.P. during current kharif season is around 18000 ha which is similar to last year and harvesting will start from September onwards. Total area sown in Uttarakhand is around 25889 ha which is less compared to last year's area of 28360 ha. The harvesting of potato in Haldwani area started and expected to be continued till August. Around 8854 ha area in Karnataka covered, which is less compared to last year's area of 20107 ha under kharif season. Harvesting will be done from August onwards. Kharif potato in Maharashtra is mostly taken in Pune and Satara districts. The seed sowing of kharif potato is expected to start from August onwards and harvesting will be done October onwards.

Potato prices are expected to be on higher side in coming months, due to controlled release of stored stock from cold storages by farmers / traders and less production by around 5%. Kharif potato is taken in very less area in few states as stated above, which is also less compared to last year.