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Horticulture Production 2025-26: Smaller Area, Record Output

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In this article: Key figures of the Third Advance Estimates, crop-wise detail, structure of the horticulture sector, related schemes, practice questions, FAQ



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Why in the news

On 17 November 2026, Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the **Third Advance Estimates** of area and production of horticultural crops for 2025-26. India's total horticulture production is estimated at a record **3,869.15 lakh tonnes (386.9 million tonnes)**, up **161.77 lakh tonnes (4.36%)** over the 3,707.38 lakh tonnes of 2024-25. Notably, this growth has come even as the area under horticulture has declined to about **297.21 lakh hectares** (from 301.36 lakh hectares in 2024-25) - a sign of improving productivity.

Key figures, crop-wise

- **Fruits:** up from 1,176.49 lakh tonnes to **1,230.66 lakh tonnes (+4.60%)**; better output of banana, mango, papaya, apple, pomegranate and jackfruit.
- **Vegetables:** from 2,177.97 lakh tonnes to **2,272.68 lakh tonnes (+4.35%)**; area up from 117.91 lakh to 119.31 lakh hectares.
- Potato: from 585.71 to **655.70 lakh tonnes (+11.95%)**
- Tomato: from 205.99 to **214.11 lakh tonnes**
- Onion: **288.96 lakh tonnes**
- **Flowers:** from 42.65 to **48.82 lakh tonnes (about +14.45%)**; area 4.10 lakh hectares.
- **Plantation crops** (arecanut, coconut, cashew, betel leaves, cocoa): **182.64 lakh tonnes (+7.56%)**.
- **Aromatic and medicinal plants:** from 9.01 to 9.28 lakh tonnes.
- **Spices: 123.54 lakh tonnes** over 47.56 lakh hectares; supported by turmeric, garlic, curry leaves and cardamom (Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development data).

The estimates were released by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare based on information from States, Union Territories and other government agencies.

The horticulture sector: exam-relevant structure

- **Horticulture covers:** fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, plantation crops, and aromatic and medicinal plants.
- India's horticulture output has exceeded foodgrain output since 2012-13, and the country is among the leading fruit and vegetable producers in the world.
- Its share in agricultural income is far higher than its share of cropped area - the basis of the 'diversification' strategy for raising farm incomes.
- **Advance-estimates system:** foodgrains get four advance estimates and a final estimate; for horticulture the Department releases phased (first, second, third) advance estimates.

> **Related reading:** PM-KISAN 24th Instalment: Over Rs 18,690 Crore to 9.34 Crore Farmers from Banaskantha

Related schemes and bodies

- **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):** The central scheme for holistic horticulture development.
- **National Horticulture Board (NHB) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM):** mechanisms for expansion, planting material and pre-production management.
- **APEDA:** promotes agricultural and processed-food exports, including fruits and vegetables.
- Operation Greens (TOP crops - tomato, onion, potato) for price stabilisation.

Way forward

- High-density planting, micro-irrigation and climate-resilient varieties to keep raising productivity as area shrinks.
- Cold chains, processing and market linkage, so that record output reaches farm incomes and gains such as the +14.45% rise in flowers prove durable.

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Prelims Practice Questions

Question 1

With reference to the Third Advance Estimates of horticulture production for 2025-26, consider the following statements:

Statement 1: Total horticulture production is estimated at 3,869.15 lakh tonnes, a rise of 4.36%
Statement 2: This growth is estimated despite an increase in the area under horticulture
Statement 3: Flower production is estimated to grow by about 14.45%

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (b)

Statement 1: Correct - up from 3,707.38 lakh tonnes (2024-25) to 3,869.15 lakh tonnes (+4.36%)
Statement 2: Incorrect - area declined from 301.36 lakh to about 297.21 lakh hectares; the growth comes from productivity
Statement 3: Correct - flowers from 42.65 to 48.82 lakh tonnes (about +14.45%)

Question 2

With reference to the Third Advance Estimates (2025-26), consider the following statements:

Statement 1: Potato production is estimated to grow by about 12%
Statement 2: The area under spices is estimated at 47.56 lakh hectares
Statement 3: The estimates were released by the National Statistical Office

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Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (a)

Statement 1: Correct - potato from 585.71 to 655.70 lakh tonnes (+11.95%)
Statement 2: Correct - spices over 47.56 lakh hectares, production 123.54 lakh tonnes
Statement 3: Incorrect - the estimates were released by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who released the Third Advance Estimates?

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 17 November 2026; the data is from the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

What is the estimated total horticulture production for 2025-26?

3,869.15 lakh tonnes (386.9 million tonnes) - 161.77 lakh tonnes (4.36%) more than 2024-25.

Which crop group is estimated to grow the most in percentage terms?

Flowers - about 14.45% (from 42.65 to 48.82 lakh tonnes).

Sources

- www.pib.gov.in
- www.thehindu.com
- www.newindianexpress.com

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