

**I**ndia is the second largest producer of groundnuts after China. Groundnut is the largest oilseed in India in terms of production. It accounted for 35.99 per cent of the oilseeds production of the country during 2007-08.

Gujarat is the largest producer contributing 25 per cent of the total production followed by Tamil Nadu (22.48 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (18.81 per cent), Karnataka (12.64 per cent) and Maharashtra (10.09 per cent) during 2006-07.

Groundnut contains on an average 40.1 per cent of fat and 25.3 per cent of protein and is a rich source of calcium, iron and vitamin B complex like thiamine, riboflavin, niacin and vitamin A. It has multifarious usages: It is used not only as a major cooking medium for various food items but also for manufacture of soaps, cosmetics, shaving creams and lubricants. In fact, it plays a pivotal role in the oilseed economy of India.

### Origin and uses of groundnuts

It has been reported that South America was the place from where cultivation of groundnut originated and spread to Brazil, Southern Bolivia and North-western Argentina. Groundnut was introduced by the Portuguese from Brazil to West Africa and then to south-western India in the 16th century.

Almost every part of groundnut is of commercial value.

**Groundnut oil.** The groundnut oil has several uses but it is mainly used as cooking oil. It is used in many preparations, like soap making, fuel, cosmetics, shaving cream, leather dressings, furniture cream, lubricants, etc. Groundnut oil is also used in making *vanaspati ghee* and in fatty acids manufacturing. It is also used as a medium of preservation for preparation of pickles, *chutney*, etc.

The groundnut oil is used in

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## GROUNDNUT: THE KING OF OILSEEDS



**Groundnut is one of the most important cash crops of our country. It is a low-priced commodity but a valuable source of all the nutrients.**

making different types of medicated ointments, plasters, syrups and medicated emulsion. It is also used to make various food preparations like butter, milk, candy and chocolate, *chutney*, groundnut pack, *laddu*, *barfi (chukii)*, etc.

**Kernels.** Whole kernels are used for table purpose by frying, soaking, roasting and boiling and in different types of *namkeens*. Roasted groundnut is the most popular way

of eating. Kernels are also used as a spice in vegetables and as sprouts for *salad*.

**Groundnut cake.** It is a good feed for animals and poultry due to its nutritive value and palatability.

**Groundnut shell.** Groundnut shell has great potential for commercial use. It is used as a fuel, filler in cattlefeed, hard particleboard, cork substitute, activated carbon, etc.

## MARKET SURVEY

Table I

### Area, Production and Average Yield of Groundnut in the Major Producing Countries

(Area in '000 hectares; production in '000 tonnes)

Country	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		Percentage of World in 2006-07		Yield (kg/ha)		
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Argentina	251.06	564	222.37	517	156.4	315.6	0.59	0.89	2,247	2,325	2,018
Burkina Faso	330.9	301.09	342.64	323.64	331	301	1.25	0.84	910	945	909
Chad	477.13	448.09	480	450	480	450	1.81	1.26	939	938	938
China	5,016.42	14,471.84	4,946.1	14,895.1	5,125.4	13,447.46	19.37	37.71	2,885	3,012	2,624
Congo, Dem	473.64	368.45	456.59	355.18	456.59	355.18	1.73	1	778	778	778
Ghana	254	258	384	520	350	450	1.32	1.26	1,016	1,354	1,286
<b>India</b>	<b>6,238.1</b>	<b>7,027.5</b>	<b>5,953.5</b>	<b>4,362.8</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>30.23</b>	<b>21.03</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>938</b>
Indonesia	654.8	1,245	646.95	1,267	682.94	1,377	2.58	3.86	1,901	1,958	2,016
Myanmar	586.13	731.09	567.19	722.6	575	730	2.17	2.05	1,247	1,274	1,270
Nigeria	2738	2,683	2,782	2,699	2,800	2,700	10.58	7.57	980	970	964
Senegal	984.16	943.84	841.76	501.3	900	900	3.4	2.52	959	596	1,000
Sudan	1,531.32	990	1,900	1267	1,900	1,200	7.18	3.37	647	667	632
USA	571.38	1,939.88	524.76	1,506.15	530.95	1,879.75	2.01	5.27	3,395	2,870	3,540
Viet Nam	244.6	363.1	246.7	400.4	240.3	400.1	0.91	1.12	1,485	1,623	1,665
Others	3,689.68	3,747.78	3,810.24	3,515.93	3,934.28	3,652.34	14.87	10.24	—	—	—
<b>World</b>	<b>24,041.32</b>	<b>36,082.65</b>	<b>24,104.79</b>	<b>33,303.1</b>	<b>26,462.86</b>	<b>35,658.43</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>1,348</b>

Source: Handbook on Grading of Foodgrains and Oilseeds, Agricultural Statistics in Various Journals and Reports

Table II

### Groundnut Production in Various Seasons

(Values in lakh tonnes)

Year	Season		Total production of groundnut	Total oilseeds production	Percentage of total production
	Kharif	Rabi			
1993-94	57.10	21.20	78.30	215.00	36.42
1994-95	60.60	20.00	80.60	213.40	37.77
1995-96	60.50	15.30	75.80	221.00	34.30
1996-97	69.40	17.00	86.40	243.80	35.44
1997-98	59.00	14.70	73.70	213.20	34.57
1998-99	69.10	20.70	89.80	247.50	36.28
1999-00	38.00	14.50	52.50	207.10	25.35
2000-01	49.10	15.00	64.10	184.40	34.76
2001-02	56.22	14.05	70.27	206.62	34.01
2002-03	30.95	10.26	41.21	148.38	27.77
2003-04	68.60	12.67	81.27	251.86	32.27
2004-05	52.62	15.12	67.74	243.54	27.81
2005-06	62.98	16.95	79.93	279.79	28.57
2006-07	32.94	15.69	48.63	242.89	20.02
2007-08	77.70	26.04	103.74	288.25	35.99
<b>Average</b>	<b>56.32</b>	<b>16.61</b>	<b>72.93</b>	<b>227.12</b>	<b>32.11</b>

Source: Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India

**Groundnut straw.** It is mainly used as animal feed and fuel and in preparation of compost. The green leaves and stems of plants are used as animal feed. The shells of pods obtained during threshing are also used as cattle feed.

### Importance

India is one of the largest producers of oilseeds in the world and occupies an important position in the Indian agricultural economy. It is estimated that nine oilseeds, namely, groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soybean, sunflower, safflower, sesame, niger, castor and linseed, accounted for an area of 23.44 million hectares with the production of 25.14 million tonnes during the year 2003-04.

Groundnut is called as the 'king' of oilseeds. It is one of the most important food and cash crops of our country. While being a valuable source of all the nutrients, it is a

Table III

**Area, Production and Average Yield of Groundnut in the Major Producing States During 2004-05 to 2006-07**

(Area in million hectares; production in million tonnes)

State	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		Percentage of world in 2006-07		Yield (kg/ha)		
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Gujarat	1.75	0.69	1.89	2.65	2.03	1.09	34.12	25	395	1,402	539
Tamil Nadu	0.7	1.36	0.66	1.25	0.55	0.98	9.24	22.48	1,942	1,885	1,784
Andhra Pradesh	1.87	2.14	1.69	1.25	1.47	0.82	24.71	18.81	1,144	739	558
Karnataka	1.06	1.08	0.85	0.59	0.84	0.55	14.12	12.61	1,017	685	648
Maharashtra	0.49	0.47	0.43	0.49	0.42	0.44	7.06	10.09	959	1,146	1,041
Rajasthan	0.2	0.18	0.24	0.3	0.24	0.17	4.03	3.9	924	1,227	687
Madhya Pradesh	0.21	0.23	0.22	0.24	0.19	0.12	3.19	2.75	1,059	1,121	635
Uttar Pradesh	0.12	0.1	0.11	0.09	0.07	0.05	1.18	1.15	835	839	662
Orissa	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05	1.04	1.15	794	985	870
Others	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.11	0.08	0.09	1.31	2.06	—	—	—
<b>All India</b>	<b>6.56</b>	<b>6.41</b>	<b>6.24</b>	<b>7.03</b>	<b>5.95</b>	<b>4.36</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>1127</b>	<b>733</b>

Source: Handbook on Grading of Foodgrains and Oilseeds, Agricultural Statistics in Various Journals and Reports

low-priced commodity. Groundnut is also called as wonder nut and poor men's cashew nut.

India exports groundnut kernels, shell, handpicked selected (HPS) groundnut and oil cake forms. Groundnut haulms and leaves serve as a rich source of cattle feed and raw material for preparation of silage. Being a leguminous crop, groundnut is also grown in crop rotation as it synthesises atmospheric nitrogen and adds 100-120 kg of nitrogen in the field per hectare per season. It maintains the fertility of soil and helps in reducing soil erosion.

**Major producing countries**

Groundnut is grown on a large scale in almost all the tropical and subtropical countries of the world. The most important groundnut growing countries are India, China, Nigeria, Sudan and USA. It is grown over an area of 24.7 million hectares with a total production of 33 million tonnes in the whole world. India occupies the first place in acreage and second in production.

Groundnut is cultivated in more

than 60 countries of the world. Area, production and average yield of major groundnut producing countries during the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 are shown in Table I. The table depicts that during 2006-07, groundnut occupied an area of 26,462.86 thousand hectares with production of 35,658.43 thousand

tonnes in the world.

Groundnut is mainly produced in Asian countries. During the year 2006-07, China was the largest producer of groundnuts accounting for 37.71 per cent of the total world production followed by India (21.03 per cent). China and India, together, accounted for about 58.74 per cent of



Roasted groundnut is the most popular way of eating

Table IV

**Country-wise Export of Groundnuts in Shell and Shelled Groundnuts During 2005-06 and 2006-07**

(Values in Rs lakh; quantity in thousand kg)

Country	Groundnuts in shell				Shelled groundnuts			
	2005-06		2006-07		2005-06		2006-07	
	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity
Indonesia	3,092.25	11,911.70	4,167.60	15,084.63	6,779.16	24,648.25	12,141.87	43,662.77
Malaysia	1,974.82	7,439.19	3,042.28	10,919.90	2,267.02	8,419.37	7,076.19	25,422.63
Netherlands	19.39	66.04	74.56	262.5	20.39	66.54	2,283.22	5,125.85
Philippines	82.22	337.24	632.84	2,148.70	294.15	982.48	3,401.92	11,573.56
Singapore	188.2	734.31	433.67	1,564.72	497.27	1,826.88	1,097.94	3,796.57
Sri Lanka	80.17	338.6	28.96	147	715.86	3,543.33	190.3	1,081.97
UK	22.62	74.01	1,324.91	4,937.00	504.71	1,779.45	1,959.58	6,976.34
Ukraine	21.01	72	253.88	862	320.97	1,083.52	457.29	1,500.50
USA	2.27	18.01	96.52	312.29	30.53	84.6	8,869.03	18,370.65
Others	289.28	2,483.54	984.21	3,541.10	627.88	1,980.69	5,913.68	18,818.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,772.23</b>	<b>23,474.64</b>	<b>11,039.43</b>	<b>39,779.84</b>	<b>12,057.94</b>	<b>44,415.11</b>	<b>43,391.02</b>	<b>136,329.49</b>

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), Kolkata

world groundnut production. Nigeria (7.57 per cent), USA (5.27 per cent), Indonesia (3.86 per cent) and Sudan (3.37 per cent) were the other major groundnut producing countries.

In area, India ranked first with 30.23 per cent share in the world, followed by China (19.37 per cent), Nigeria (10.58 per cent) and Sudan (7.18 per cent). However, in productivity, United States of America stood first with 3540 kg/ha followed by China (2624 kg/ha), Argentina (2018 kg/ha) and Indonesia (2016 kg/ha) during 2006-07.

### Groundnut production in India

The groundnut production in India under different climatic conditions is shown in Table II. It shows that the total groundnut production recorded a significant fluctuating trend between 1993-94 and 2007-08. The average groundnut production in India during the period was 72.93 lakh tonnes, with *kharif* at 56.32 lakh tonnes and *rabi* at 16.61 lakh tonnes. The highest production of 103.74 lakh tonnes was obtained during the year 2007-08, with

*kharif* at 77.70 lakh tonnes and *rabi* at 26.04 lakh tonnes.

Groundnuts assumed a significant position in India's oilseeds production during the years 1993-94 to 2007-08. In 1993-94, the total oilseeds production of India was 215 lakh tonnes, of which 36.42 per cent was contributed by groundnuts.

### Climatic requirements

Groundnut is essentially a tropical plant. It requires a long and warm growing season. The most favourable climatic conditions for groundnuts are a well-distributed rainfall of at least 50 centimetres during growing season, abundance of sunshine and relatively warm temperature. It seems *thai* plant will grow best when the mean temperature is 21°C to 26.5°C. Lower temperatures are not suitable for its proper development. During the ripening period, it requires about a month of warm, dry weather.

### Water management

Being a rainy-season crop, groundnut does not require irriga-

tion. However, if dry spell occurs, irrigation may become necessary. One irrigation should be given at the pod development stage. The field should be well drained. In the southern part of the country where groundnut is grown in *rabi* season too, three to four irrigations are necessary. The first irrigation is given at the start of flowering and the subsequent irrigations whenever required during the fruiting period to encourage peg penetration and pod development. The last irrigation before harvesting facilitates the full recovery of pods from the soil.

### Major producing states in India

In India groundnut is grown over an area of 6.9 million hectares with total production of 5.3 million tonnes. Its cultivation is mostly confined to south Indian states, viz, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The other important states where it is grown are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

The area, production and average yield of major groundnut producing states in India during the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 are shown in Table III. Gujarat was the largest groundnut producer (25 per cent) during 2006-07, followed by Tamil Nadu (22.48 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (18.81 per cent), Karnataka (12.61 per cent) and Maharashtra (10.09 per cent). In area, it ranked first with 34.12 per cent of total area during 2006-07, followed by Andhra Pradesh (24.71 per cent), Karnataka (14.12 per cent), Tamil Nadu (9.24 per cent) and Maharashtra (7.06 per cent), whereas in productivity, among major producing states, Tamil Nadu stood first with 1784 kg/ha during 2006-07, followed by Maharashtra (1041 kg/ha) and Orissa (870 kg/ha).

### Export and import

India exports both types of groundnuts—groundnuts in shell and shelled groundnuts. It has been a traditional exporter of HPS groundnuts. It has imported meager quantity of shelled groundnut kernels and HPS from Norway and Japan, respectively. Indonesia, Malaysia, the UK, Ukraine, the USA, the Philippines, the Netherlands, Singapore and Sri Lanka are major groundnut importing countries.

In 2006-07, India exported a total of 176,109.33 thousand kg groundnuts valued at Rs 54,430.45 lakh. The share of groundnuts in shell was 39,779.84 thousand kg valued at Rs 11,039.43 lakh. The country-wise export of groundnuts in shell and shelled groundnuts during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is shown in Table IV.

### To sum up

Groundnut is the major oilseed of India. It accounts for around 25 per cent of the total oilseed production of our country. The annual production of seed and oil is 5-8 and 1.5 million tonnes, respectively. About 80 per cent of the total groundnut produced in India undergoes processing so that it can be utilised as oil or cake. Around 75 per cent of the crop is produced in *kharif* season (June-September) and remaining 25 per cent in *rabi* season (November-March). The southwest monsoon is the most important factor that determines the area sown, production and prices. ■

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