India’s Horticulture Production Set to Reach Record 386.9 Million Tonnes in 2025-26: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Releases Third Advance Estimates

Horticulture production estimated to rise by 4.36% despite a decline in cultivated area; fruits, vegetables, flowers and plantation crops register strong growth

Potato production projected to increase by nearly 12%; overall horticulture output expected to grow by 16.17 million tonnes

Diversification into fruits, vegetables, spices and high-value crops creating new opportunities for farmers: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan

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Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, today released the Third Advance Estimates of area and production of horticultural crops for 2025-26, bringing encouraging news for the country's farmers. According to the latest estimates, India's total horticulture production is expected to reach 3,869.15 lakh tonnes in 2025-26, an increase of 161.77 lakh tonnes, or 4.36%, over the 3,707.38 lakh tonnes recorded in 2024-25. Expressing satisfaction over the projected growth, Shri Chouhan said the significant increase in horticulture production reflects the hard work of India's farmers and the impact of the farmer-friendly policies of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Minister said that this record production would not only strengthen the country's nutritional security but also directly contribute to higher incomes for horticulture farmers. He congratulated farmers across the country for their efforts and said the growth reflects the dedication and hard work of India's farming community.

Shri Chouhan observed that Indian agriculture is witnessing significant and encouraging diversification, with farmers increasingly moving beyond traditional crops towards the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, plantation crops such as cashew, coconut and cocoa, as well as aromatic and medicinal plants. This growing interest in commercial and high-value crops is opening up new avenues of income for farmers while creating fresh opportunities for self-reliance and growth in the agricultural sector. According to the

Minister, one of the most significant aspects of the latest estimates is the increase in production despite a reduction in the area under horticulture. The total area under horticultural crops in 2025-26 is estimated at approximately 297.21 lakh hectares, compared with 301.36 lakh hectares in 2024-25. Despite the decline in cultivated area, production is projected to increase across fruits, vegetables, flowers, plantation crops, and aromatic and medicinal plants.

The estimates, released by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the basis of information received from States, Union Territories and other government agencies, reflect the sector's continued growth and improved productivity.

Fruit production projected to increase by 4.60%

Fruit production is estimated to rise from 1,176.49 lakh tonnes in 2024-25 to 1,230.66 lakh tonnes in 2025-26, an increase of 54.18 lakh tonnes or 4.60%. The improved output is primarily attributed to better production of banana, mango, papaya, apple, pomegranate and jackfruit.

Vegetable production expected to reach 2,272.68 lakh tonnes

Farmers have also registered encouraging growth in vegetable cultivation. The area under vegetables is estimated to increase from 117.91 lakh hectares to 119.31 lakh hectares. Vegetable production is projected to rise by 4.35%, from 2,177.97 lakh tonnes in 2024-25 to 2,272.68 lakh tonnes in 2025-26. The increase is primarily driven by higher production of potato, tomato, brinjal, bottle gourd, cucumber, cabbage, beans and peas. Potato and tomato production are both expected to register strong growth. Potato production is estimated at 655.70 lakh tonnes, up 11.95% from 585.71 lakh tonnes in the previous year. Tomato production is projected to increase from 205.99 lakh tonnes to 214.11 lakh tonnes. Onion production is estimated at 288.96 lakh tonnes.

Flower production registers nearly 14.5% growth

A significant increase is also expected in flower production. Output is projected to rise by approximately 14.45%, from 42.65 lakh tonnes in 2024-25 to 48.82 lakh tonnes in 2025-26. The area under flower cultivation has also increased to 4.10 lakh hectares.

Plantation crops and medicinal plants record growth

The Third Advance Estimates also indicate an increase in both the area and production of plantation crops, including arecanut, coconut, cashew, betel leaves and cocoa. Their combined production is estimated to increase by 7.56% to 182.64 lakh tonnes. Production of aromatic and medicinal plants is also expected to rise from 9.01 lakh tonnes to 9.28 lakh tonnes.

Spice production estimated at 123.54 lakh tonnes

According to data from the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, improved production of turmeric, garlic, curry leaves and cardamom is expected to support growth in the spices sector. The total area under spices in 2025-26 is estimated at 47.56 lakh hectares, with production projected at 123.54 lakh tonnes.

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