



# Indian Agriculture

## The Sunny Side

Indian agriculture is as diverse as our culture, due mainly to family run small farms. No other country cultivates as many different types of crops as we do. Our crop diversity and diet diversity support each other.



India's small farms function **12 months a year**. They are multifunctional. They invariably practice a unique kind of mixed **agri-horti-livestock** farming. It is common in India to see agricultural farmers doubling up as milk producers, goat rearers, poultry keepers, aqua culturists etc.

This multifunctionality of small farms help in producing multiple agricultural output per unit area of the farm land.



India ranks **second** largest in the world in agricultural production, surpassing the USA and the EU.

In 1950s , India had to import rice to feed her people. Now, India is the **largest exporter of rice** in the world.

India is the world's **largest producer of milk** in the world.

Indian farmers, policy makers, scientists and agri. input companies have played a stellar role in shaping our agriculture to be a **multiproduct powerhouse**.

Indian agriculture produces more food crops and less feed crops unlike most other countries. Food crops "directly" meet our dietary needs and leave less carbon foot print compared to feed crops that go into making animal based foods (meat).



Agricultural sector's contribution to India's economy is greater than that of the manufacturing sector in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA).



🌾 Indian agricultural sector is a trade surplus sector. The exports exceed the imports – earning valuable foreign exchange for the country. Between the FYs 2016-17 and 2020-21, our agricultural exports fetched a trade surplus of **Rs 5.21 lakh crores (\$75.6 billion)**.

🌾 Our agricultural sector is highly evolved, sustainable and resilient one as evident of its robust growth even during the recent Covid pandemic. **When was the last time you heard of food shortages in India?**

## The Downside

- 🌾 How many Indians do know all these glorious facts?
- 🌾 How many hold our agriculture in high esteem?



**Let us challenge and change the deep rooted negative narratives about Indian agriculture planted by the vested interest groups.**

**A positive perception would propel Indian agriculture far and wide in the global markets.**

**Remember, India is the only country where \$1 (Rs 75) can fetch a dozen eggs or 2 kgs of bananas!**

