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News: Lentil Production in India

- As per the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, India is set to become the world's largest producer of lentils (masoor) during the 2023-24 crop year on account of higher acreage.
- The country's lentil production is estimated to touch an all-time high of 1.6 million tonnes in the 2023-24 rabi season on higher acreage.
- According to official data, in the 2022-23 crop year, the country's lentil production stood at 1.56 million tonnes.

Lentil (Masoor)

- Lentil (Masoor) is a bushy annual herbaceous plant of the legume family.
- These are edible legumes, known for their lens-shaped, flat disced seed.
- Lentil plants are typically short, and bear self-pollinated flowers.
- Lentil grains are excellent sources of energy, carbohydrates, protein, fat, fibers, phosphorus, iron, zinc, carotene, vitamins, and antioxidants.

Climatic Condition

- Lentil is primarily grown as a rainfed crop.

- It requires cold temperature during its vegetative growth and warm temperature at the time of maturity.
- Lentil is grown during rabi season.

Soil Types

- Lentils can grow on various soil types, from sand to clay loam, growing best in deep sandy loam soils with moderate fertility.
- A soil pH around 7 would be the best. Lentils do not tolerate flooding or water-logged conditions.

Lentil Growing Region

- It is mainly cultivated in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.
- The Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is considered as lentil bowl which contributes nearly 25% to the total lentil production in the country.
- According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the world top lentil growers in 2022 were Canada, India, Australia, Turkey, and Russia.

- Despite being the second largest producer of lentil, India has so far been relying on imports to meet its domestic requirements, buying mainly from Australia, Canada, Russia, Singapore, and Turkey.