

Agriculture in Bihar State

- Bihar is primarily an agricultural state where farming is subsistent in nature.
- Foodgrains are the main crops.
- Gopalganj and Madhepura have the highest net sown area.
- There are three cropping seasons in Bihar.
- Kharif Crops
 - They are also called Bhadai and Aghani crops.
 - They are sown in May-June and harvested in September-October.
 - Important crops - Maize, Paddy and Jute.
- Rabi Crops
 - They are sown in October-November and harvested in March-April.
 - Important crops - Wheat, Gram, Rapeseed and Mustard.
- Zaid Crops
 - They are produced between Rabi and Kharif crop seasons.
 - Important crops - Muskmelon, Watermelon, Gourd etc.
- RICE
 - Main cereal crop of Bihar
 - Two crops are grown - Aus (Summer Crop) and Aman (Winter Crop)
 - Maximum area - Madhubani, Aurangabad and Rohtas
 - Maximum production - Rohtas, Aurangabad and West Champaran
 - Maximum productivity - Arwal, Rohtas and Sheikhpura
- WHEAT
 - The best suited is sandy soil having the capacity to retain moisture.
 - Ganga Diara and Bagmati plains are the most important.
 - Maximum area - Rohtas, East Champaran and Aurangabad
 - Maximum production - Rohtas, Kaimur and Siwan
 - Maximum productivity - Jahanabad, Patna and Gaya
- MAIZE
 - Light clay soil is best for maize e.g. Bal Sundari soil
 - Maximum area - Khagaria
 - Maximum production - Katihar, Madhepura and Khagaria
 - Maximum productivity - Katihar
- JUTE
 - Bihar ranks 2nd in jute production after West Bengal
 - It requires alluvial soil with a large amount of rainfall.
 - Major district for jute production - Kishanganj and Purnea
- PULSES
 - Arhar, gram, urad, masoor, moong and khesari are grown.
 - Maximum area - Patna, Aurangabad and Muzaffarpur
 - Maximum production - Patna, Aurangabad and Nalanda

- Maximum productivity - Kaimur
- Bihar is known for its Litchi and Mango production.
- Litchi of Muzaffarpur is famous all over India.

IRRIGATION

- The irrigation potential of Bihar is very high but utilization is very low.
- Proper irrigation helps in raising agricultural production thus bettering the lives of people.
- Bihar also receives a fair amount of rainfall.
- There is a however uneven distribution of both irrigation facilities and rainfall across various districts.
- The share of irrigation by Canals is 37% and Tubewells is 30% while wells and ponds account for 30%.
- Almost 3/4th of the Canal irrigated area is in South Bihar.
- SONE CANAL
 - Eastern Sone Canal taken out from Barun - irrigates Patna, Jahanabad, Aurangabad and Gaya
 - Western Sone Canal has been taken out from Tishri - irrigate Ara, Buxar and Rohtas
- KOSI CANAL
 - Two canals took out from Hanuman Nagar reservoir
 - Eastern Kosi Canal - irrigates Purnia, Madhepura and Saharsa.
 - Western Kosi Canal - irrigates Darbhanga district.
- GANDAK CANAL
 - Two Canals took out from the dam at Valmiki Nagar
 - Saran Canal - irrigates Saran, Gopalganj and Siwan
 - Tirhut Canal - irrigates Muzaffarpur, Vaishali and East Champaran
- TRIVENI CANAL
 - It is taken out from Gandak River at Triveni.
 - It irrigates the West Champaran district.
- KAMLA CANAL
 - It is taken out from Kamla River in Darbhanga.
 - It irrigates mainly the Madhubani district.

Transport in Bihar State

ROADWAYS

- Roadways are the most common means of transport used by people.
- Development of the people cannot be achieved without adequate roads.

- In terms of road length per lakh population, it is just over 200 km compared to the national average of 358 km.
- However, in terms of road density of 210 km per 100 sq. km, Bihar is much ahead of other states except Kerala and West Bengal
- The total length of National Highways is 4595 km.
- The longest NH in Bihar is NH-31 of which 393 km is in Bihar.
- East-West Corridor
 - It connects Porbandar to Silchar.
 - It passes through 10 districts.
 - Kishanganj, Katihar, Purnia, Araria, Supaul, Madhepura, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, East Champaran and Gopalganj
 - It crosses the Gandak River in Bihar.
 - It consists of NH-27.
- Golden Quadrilateral
 - It passes through 4 districts.
 - Kaimur, Rohtas, Aurangabad and Gaya.
 - It crosses the Sone River in Bihar.
 - It consists of NH-2 which connects Delhi to Kolkata.
- Major NHS :
 - NH-19 - Chhapra to Patna
 - NH-57 - Muzaffarpur to Purnia
 - NH-82 - Gaya to Mokama
 - NH-85 - Chhapra to Gopalganj
 - NH-98 - Patna to Rajhara. AIIMS Patna is on this NH.
- Major Road Bridges :
 - Mahatma Gandhi Setu on Ganga river in Patna
 - Vikramshila Setu on Ganga river in Bhagalpur
- Major Rail-Road Bridges :
 - Rajendra Setu on Ganga river in Mokama
 - Nehru Setu on Sone river in Dehri-i-Koh
 - Abdul Bari Bridge on Sone river connecting Koilwar and Bhojpur
 - Ganga Rail-Road Bridge on Ganga river connecting Patna and Sonapur

RAILWAYS

- Railways started developing quite early in Bihar by the East India Company in 1860-62.
- Bihar has three railway lines
 - North-Eastern Railway - North Bihar
 - East Central Railway - South Bihar
 - North-East Frontier Railway - North-East Bihar

- The headquarters of the East Central Railway is located in Hajipur in the Vaishali district of Bihar.

AIRWAYS

- There are two international airports in Bihar.
 - Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport, Patna
 - Gaya International Airport - It was mainly developed for Buddhist tourism in Gaya.

WATERWAYS

- Waterways are the cheapest means of transport.
- It is environment friendly and fuel-efficient.
- National Waterway-1 that connects Allahabad to Haldia passes through Bihar.
- Bihar Steamer Service is available at Bararighat in Bhagalpur
- Ara Canal is also used for navigation purposes.

INDUSTRIES in Bihar State

- Most of the industries are agro-based.
- The First Sugar manufacturing company was set up by the Dutch in 1840.
- Bihar State Milk Cooperative Federation (CONFED)
 - It was established in 1983.
 - SUDHA brand is marketed by CONFED.
- The tea industry in Bihar is mostly concentrated in the Kishanganj district.
- Bhagalpur region has great potential for Silk Industry.
- Jute Park is being set up at Maranga in the Purnia district.
- The leather industry is concentrated in Muzaffarpur and Mokama. Due to only a few working industries, most of the raw materials find a way to Kolkata, Kanpur and Chennai.
- Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA)
 - It was constituted under the B I A D Act 1974 to promote industrialization in Bihar.
 - It has 4 regional offices in Patna, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur.
- Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited
 - It is a PSU located in Mokama
 - It manufactures rail wagons.
- Barauni Refinery
 - It is located in Begusarai.

- It was established in 1964 with the help of the USSR.
- It is owned by Indian Oil Corporation.
- It receives oil from the Numaligarh oilfield in Assam.

- Major Industrial locations in Bihar
 - Mokama - Leather, Rail Wagons
 - Digha - Leather, Beer
 - Bihta - Sugar
 - Patna - Cracker, Cotton Textile
 - Bhagalpur - Tussar Silk
 - Munger - Gun, Cigarette
 - Gaya - Sugar, Lac, Cotton Textile, Leather
 - Dumraon - Cotton Textile, Laltern
 - Bihar Sharif - Tobacco
 - Darbhanga - Paper
 - Samastipur - Paper mill, Sugar
 - Katihar - Jute, Matchstick
 - Dalmianagar - Cement
 - Hajipur - Plywood

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