



Date – 12 November 2022

GM Edible Oil

Relevance for Prelims: GM Crops, Effects

Relevance for Mains: Impact of cultivation of GM Crops, Need of GM Crops

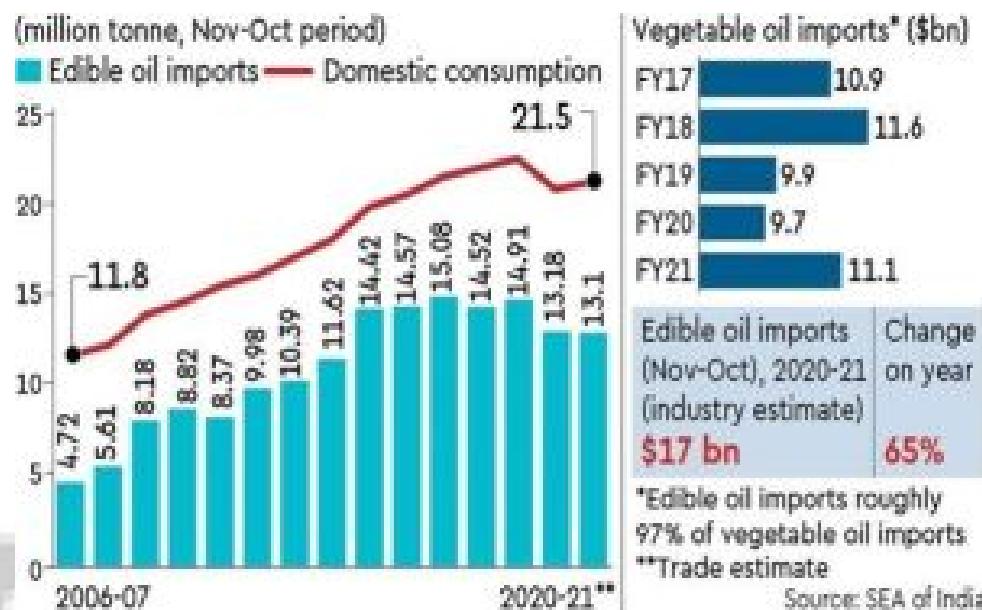
Context: The government in an affidavit informed Supreme Court that country is already importing GM oil, so any fear regarding the cultivation of edible GM Crop.

More in the news:

The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has approved seed production of GM Mustard. (Refer to the previous article if you want to understand about GM Mustard (DMH-11)- <https://plutusias.com/genetic-modified-crops/>)

State of Edible Oil Sector in India:

- India produced more than **35 million tonnes** of edible oil from **9 oilseeds** during 2020-21 as per Ministry of Agriculture.
- India is the **world's largest importer** and **second-largest producer** of edible oils. The consumption of edible oil is more than the production of edible oils, which compels India to rely on imports from Malaysia and Indonesia.
- Currently (October 2022) India **imports 50-60%** of Edible oils of its domestic needs. Out of all edible oils, **Palm Oil** constitutes **62% of total imports** while **Soyabean** constitutes **22%** from Argentina and Brazil and **Sunflower (10%)** from Russia and Ukraine.



Government initiatives about Edible Oils:

1. **National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil palm:** It is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by Both Centre and State governments with North-East and Island (Andaman and Nicobar) in focus.
2. The government set up **Technology Mission on Oilseeds** in 1986 which was later converted into **National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil palm (NMOOP) in 2014.**
3. To encourage production of Oilseeds, government has increased the price of MSP of seeds such as Mustard, Rapeseed.

Q1- Consider the following statements: (UPSC Prelims- 2018)

1. The quantity of imported edible oils is more than the domestic production of edible oils in the last five years.
2. The Government does not impose any customs duty on all the imported edible oils as a special case.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q2- Among the agricultural commodities imported by India, which one of the following accounts for the highest imports in terms of value in the last five years?

(UPSC Prelims Question 2019)

- (a) Spices
- (b) Fresh fruits
- (c) Pulses
- (d) Vegetable oils

Rishabh

Shahtoosh and Pashmina

Relevance for Prelims: Handicraft in News, Geographical indication tag, Fauna in News

Relevance for Mains: None

Context: Indian custom officials have reported that have detected Shahtoosh guard hair in Pashmina shawls.

More in the news:

- Pashmina is sourced from Changthangi goats (*Capra Hircus*) domesticated in Ladakh and Tibet. The wool is harvested by Changpa tribes of Ladakh who herd the Changthangi goats.
- On the other hand, **Shahtoosh** is sourced from **Tibetan Antelope** (*Chiru*) which also inhabits northern area of Changthang Plateau in Tibet. Due to decline in population of Chiru, CITES (Conservation of International Trade in endangered Species of wildlife fauna and flora) banned the sale and trade of shahtoosh shawl and scarves.
- **Changpas** are semi-nomadic communities which inhabit Changthang Plateau of Ladakh. They are classified as Scheduled Tribe (ST) from 2001.
- The **pashm** (Raw wool from Changthani Goat) is bought from middle men between Kashmiri Weavers and **Changpa Tribes**.
- The central government, in 2008, declared that Kashmiri artisans would have Intellectual property rights on Kashmiri Pashmina, giving a **GI Tag** on pashmina Shawls.

Significance:

- It is one of the high and finest quality wool in whole world.
- It boosts local economy of Ladakh.

About GI tag:

- It is an indication used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from geographical territory.
- The government has enacted **Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection), 1999** seeks to provide for better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- The validity of GI tag is for **10 years** following which can be renewed further.

Q1- With reference to 'Changpa' community of India, consider the following statements:
(UPSC 2014 Prelims)

1. They live mainly in the State of Uttarakhand.
2. They rear the Pashmina goats that yield a fine wool.
3. They are kept in the category of Scheduled Tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2- India enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 in order to comply with the obligations to **(UPSC Prelims 2018)**

- (a) ILO
- (b) IMF
- (c) UNCTAD
- (d) WTO