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| Agriculture – the main occupation of Haryana, IndiaAbout 70%of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. This state is self- sufficient in food grains production and one of the top contributors of food grains to the Central pool. It contributes 40 to 45 lakh tonnes of food grains to the Central Pool which is the largest. The world famous Basmati rice produced in Haryana finds an easy market abroad. At present about 37.50 lakh hectares is covered under cereal crops like wheat, rice, maize and bajra yielding a total cereal production of 109,60,000 tons. The total number of farm tractors is about 1, 96,500.The state of Haryana has a geographical area of 44.20 lakh hectare. About 86% of the geographical area is cultivable, of which 96% has already been brought under plough. The cropping intensity in the state is nearly 170%. Haryana together with Punjab is called the “Grain Bowl” of India. There is a network of canals and an effective lift irrigation system for the arid areas of the state. As a result of the various incentives being provided to the farmers, floriculture and horticulture are fast picking up. An ultra-modern fruit and vegetable market and processing complex of international standard is being developed at Rai near Delhi to provide marketing and food processing facilities to the farmers and entrepreneurs of the northern region. The main crops of Haryana are wheat, rice, sugarcane, cotton, oilseeds, gram, barley, corn, millet etc. There are two types of crops in Haryana rabi and kharif. The major kharif crops of Haryana are rice, jowar, bajra, maize, cotton, jute, sugarcane, sesame and groundnut. For these crops the ground is prepared in April and May and the seeds are sown at the commencement of rains in June. The crops are ready for harvesting by the beginning of November. The major rabi crops are wheat, tobacco, gram, linseed, rapeseed and mustard. The ground is prepared by the end of October or the beginning of November and the crops are harvested by March. The production of some of the main crops and the area under cultivation is as under:**Wheat:** 75,54,000 tonnes - 20,64,000 hectares**Rice:** 25,45,000 tonnes  -  9,10,000 hectares**Cotton:** 11,29,000 tonnes  -  6,38,000 hectares**Bajra:** 6,73,000 tonnes  -  5,84,000 hectares**Oil Seeds:** 5,80,000 hectares**Gram:** 3,10,000 tonnes  -  3,55,000 hectaresDairy Farming an essential part of rural economy |
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| Dairy farming forms an essential part of Haryana's rural economy. It has been known as the 'milk pail' of India. Dairy products like Milk, Ghee, Butter, curd and cheese are a major part of the diet of Haryana's people. The total milk production in the state is now approaching 33 lakh metric tonnes. Animal husbandry has been taken up as an integral component of diversified agriculture. Haryana has a livestock population of 98.97 lakh. To give farmers good price for their dairy products and to help in marketing, a vast network of milk producers societies has been set up in the state. About 1500 milk societies are now working. Six milk plants set up in the cooperative sector are now working in Jind, Bhiwani, Ambala, & Rohtak. Horticulture and vegetable farming are now being encouraged in Haryana. At present about 13,000 hectares of orchards of fruits like oranges, malta, kinnoo, mausami, ber (Indian Jujube) and mangoes are being cultivated. |  |