



Turmeric

Turmeric is the boiled, dried, cleaned and polished rhizomes of *Curcuma* a herbaceous plant. India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. Indian turmeric is considered to be the best in the world market because of its high curcumin content. India accounts for about 80 per cent of world turmeric production and 60 per cent of world exports, with USA importing 97% of the turmeric requirement from India.

Turmeric is a tropical crop cultivated from sea level to 1,200 meter MSL. The plant is a herbaceous perennial, 60-90 cm high, with a short stem and tufted leaf. The rhizome has 1.8-5.4% curcumin, the pigment and 2.5-7.2% of essential oil.



Uses

Turmeric is used to flavor and to color foodstuffs. It is a principal ingredient in curry powder. Turmeric oleoresin is used in brine pickles and to some extent in mayonnaise and relish formulations, non-alcoholic beverages, gelatins, butter and cheese etc.

The color curcumin extracted from turmeric is used as a colorant. Turmeric is also used as a dye in textile industry. It is used in the preparation of medicinal oils, ointments and poultice. It is stomachic, carminative, tonic, blood purifier and an antiseptic. It is used in cosmetics. Also, the aqueous extracts have bio-pesticidal properties.



Sustainability challenges identified

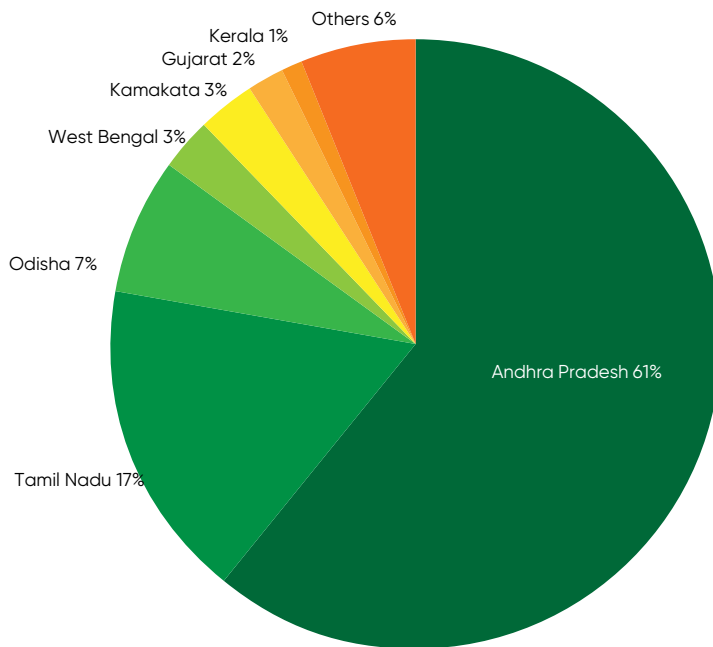
- Crop has an increasing disease pressure, and pesticide use is intensive. However, only about half of all producers in scope implement any risk mitigation measures for the safe use of agrochemical products.
- Although all farms have fertilization management plans, this plans have not been adjusted to the soil conditions and crop requirements due to the lack of labs for testing soil samples in a regular basis. Only 3% of farms in scope have conducted a soil analysis in the last three
- Producers usually face labor shortages, which entail higher productions costs due to the costs of labor.
- All farms under irrigation, but about a third of farmers still use furrow or flood irrigation, which increases water and agricultural inputs consumption and entails a series of issues related to pest, soil and inputs management.
- Producers do not have adequate infrastructure for crop post-harvest and pre-processing, which increases the risk of crop/food waste.

Major turmeric growing areas in India

| State | Region |
|---------------------------|---|
| AndhraPradesh & Telangana | Cuddapah, Adilabad, Medak, Nizamabad, Guntur |
| Gujarat | Kheda, Anand, Sabarkantha |
| Kerala | Wayanad, Palakkadu, Idukki, Kollam,Kozhikode |
| Tamil Nadu | Karur,Villupuram,Coimbatore,Salem,Dharmapuri,Krishnagri,Erode |
| Orissa | Gajapati,Kalahandi,Keonjhar,Koraput,Belasore,Mayurbhanj, Phulbani,Nayagarh,Cuttack. |

Major producing states

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, GoI



The SAN-Nestle partnership focuses its work on Karnataka state, with a scope of two suppliers and more than 160 farmers, mostly smallholders.

Sowing season

May – July

Harvest season

January – February



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