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## ***21st, December, 2021***

***Topic: Agriculture, Economics and Geography***

***Importance: Himachal HPAS Prelims as well as Mains.***

***What is the news?***

- Farmers and fruit growers in lower Kangra district are a worried lot as the ongoing prolonged dry spell has not only hampered the sowing of rabi crops, but also hit citrus fruit cash crops.

***Challenges:***

- The farmers ploughed and prepared their fields for the cultivation of rabi crop, but in the absence of rain and soil moisture, they are unable to plant their crops.
- Some farmers, who planted wheat in late November and were expecting precipitation in the first half of

December, are at risk of suffering losses.

- The maximum amount of farmland in the area is rainy and farmers are dependent on rainwater as they do not have irrigation facilities.
- The dry season also hurt citrus crops such as orange, kinnow and galgal.
- In the absence of rain and continuing drought-like condition, neither the fruit has developed in size, nor has it acquired proper shape so far.

### ***Official data:***

- According to official records, farmers cultivate wheat on about 9,850 hectares and maize and paddy on 4,670 and 5,892 hectares.

### ***What types of Crops planted in November and December?***

- The rabi seeds are seeded in early autumn in November or December.

### ***About Rabi Crops:***

- Crops grown in winter (October through March) are called Rabi Crops.
- Examples of rabi crops are wheat, gram, pea, mustard and linseed.
- As wheat requires low temperatures to grow, winter is the ideal season for growing this rabi crop.
- The ideal temperature range should be about 14 to 18 degrees centigrade with precipitation between 50 cm and 90 cm.

(Source: HP Tribune)

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