



## Rabi Paddy Cultivation in Telangana – Current Status and Way Forward

**P. Divakar Reddy and  
Shreedhar Beese**

\*School of Agricultural Sciences  
, Anurag University,  
Hyderabad 501301, Telangana, India



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\*Corresponding Author

**P. Divakar Reddy\***

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### INTRODUCTION

In India rice is the most prominent crop and staple food for most of the people in the country. Paddy crop occupies an important position in both area and production. The crop is grown in both the seasons *i.e.*, *kharif* and *Rabi*. The total production of rice during 2024-25 was 150.18 million tonnes. The production of paddy was increased by 12 million tonnes from previous year (Source: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, 2024-25). The total area under paddy cultivation in Telangana during the 2024-25 agricultural year was approximately 79.83 lakh acres. The highest area was reported from the states of Telangana, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha (11.78, 9.50, 8.42 and 6.17 lakh ha respectively) (Source: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, 2023-24). Less area was reported from the states of Assam 6.77 lakh ha, Punjab 1.73 Lakh ha, Nagaland 1.16 lakh ha, Tripura 0.10 lakh ha and Himachal Pradesh 0.01 lakh ha. During yasangi 2024-25 (*rabi*) in Telangana, the total area under paddy cultivation was 21.23 lakh ha which was 23.45 per cent higher than last year. Major paddy growing districts of Telangana are Nizamabad, Kamareddy, Jangaon Karimnagar, Suryapet and Nalgonda (1.49, 0.26, 0.14, 0.05, 0.034 and 0.03 lakh acres respectively). (Source: Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Telangana. Paddy outlook, July, 2025). In *kharif* season, the highest production was reported from Uttar Pradesh followed by Punjab, West Bengal and Telangana State. But in *rabi* season, the highest production was reported from Telangana state followed by West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh respectively. This strong performance confirmed India's status as a major global rice producer in the world.

### Reasons for low productivity of paddy during rabi season in Telangana

In Telangana state, the *rabi* season starts from November month and it continues upto May. The production of paddy in *rabi* season is less as compare to *kharif* season, the main reasons were

- **Unfavourable weather conditions:** lower temperatures during early stages lead to poor germination and stunted plant growth thus reduced yield.
- **Water scarcity:** paddy is water intensive crop due to irrigation problems caused by overuse of groundwater on account of 24 hrs power supply
- **Increased pest and disease incidence:** the variation in temperature during *rabi* can encourage the prevalence of certain pest and diseases such as brown plant hopper and blast.
- **Sub optimal management practices:** delayed sowing and imbalanced fertilizer application and poor weed management

practices can hinder the crop performance and leads to lower yield in farmers' field.

#### Measures to improve:

- Selection of short duration varieties and with cold tolerance.
- The farmers are suggested to grow extra early varieties to avoid cold temperature at panicle development stage which have to be grown from tenth December onwards.
- Focus on improving soil health through testing, balanced fertilization and optimized water management
- Rotate the paddy with other crops like legumes or oil seeds to enhance soil fertility and break pest cycle

#### Suitable varieties

Early duration varieties are Cotton dora Sannalu (MTU 1010), Tellahamsa (RNR 10754), Nellore mahsuri (NLR 34449), Anjana (JGL 11118), Jagtial Samba (JGL 3844) Satya (RNR-1446). Extra early duration varieties are Rajendra (RNR 12329), Pradhymna (JGL 17004), Varalu (WGL 14377)

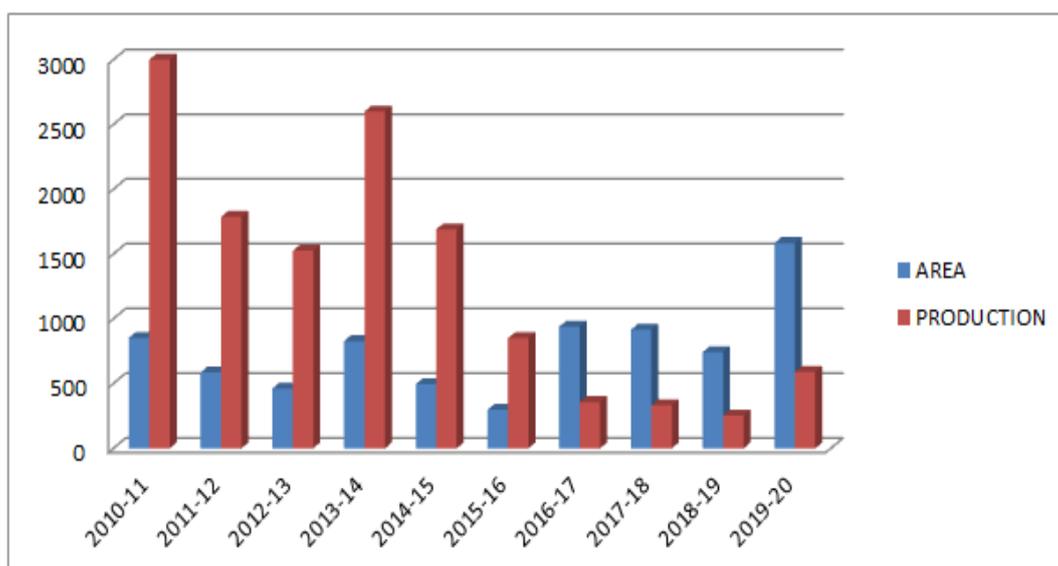


Fig 1. Paddy area and production in *Rabi* season in Telangana state

### Recent changes in *rabi* crops area

The Government has taken note of the trend of decrease in paddy sowing area in some States and farmers' organizations have been attributing that the higher input cost, particularly increase in prices of fertilizers, is the main reason for the decrease in paddy cultivation apart from scarcity

of water, less rain and cultivation of pulses and tur/ arhar dal including oilseeds, sugarcane, and other agricultural items is down marginally in various States of the country during the last five years (Source: Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) Telangana has scaled a new high in the cultivation of *rabi* (Yasangi) crops as

they were raised on a record extent of nearly 68.67 lakh acres so far this agriculture year (2024-25), including paddy on about 52.43 lakh acres, which is also a record. Backed by favourable conditions such as ample water in projects for irrigation, availability of groundwater and other initiatives such as investment support given under the Rythu Barosa (Rythu Bandhu earlier) scheme, the extent has reached record levels. The previous record for the Rabi season was in 2023-24 when the total extent was over 66.21 lakh acres and that of paddy was 51.89 lakh acres.

### CONCLUSION

The rabi paddy area was decreased gradually from the formation of separate state. But in the recent years *rabi* crops area were increased

gradually although the paddy area was also increased during last couple of years it is because of direct investment support like Rythu Barosa scheme and the ground water also increased due to irrigation projects and other initiatives like mission kakatiya etc. The policy makers need to focus more on to provide training programs to farmers to know about the insect and pest infestation and proper disease diagnosis management from time to time will enhance the yield as well as their livelihood security.

### REFERENCES

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, 2023-24 Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Telangana. Paddy outlook, July, 2025