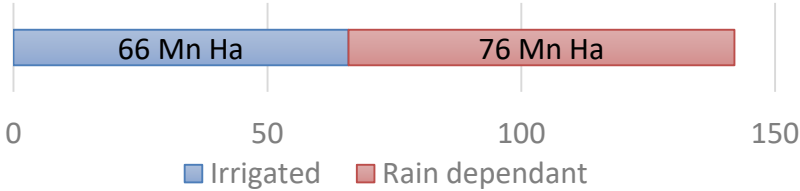


# Trends in Plasticsulture in India

- India has around 140 Mn Ha of net sown area of which 86% of landholdings are less than 2 hectares
- Irrigation networks cover around 66 Mn Ha of land under cultivation

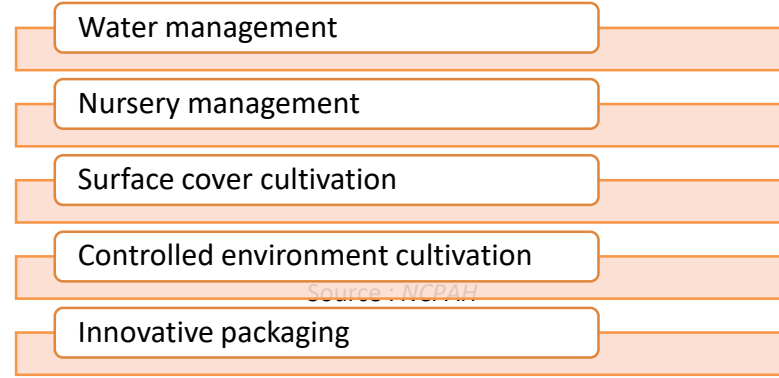
India: Net sown area details



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare, Government of India

- Depletion of water resources, falling ground water reserves and deteriorating water quality are among serious concerns faced by the agriculture sector in India
- The Central Government has planned the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during the 2016-17 budget at a cost of INR 86,500 Cr to fast track irrigation projects
- Plasticsulture, the use of plastics in agriculture, horticulture, water-management, food grains storage and related areas, is in a nascent stage in India
- As a solution to improve resource utilization and improve yields, Government has set up National Committee on Plasticsulture Applications in Horticulture (NCPAH) to popularise adoption of plasticsulture in India
- Precision Farming Development Centres have been set up in many states to promote Precision Farming & Plasticsulture Applications for hi-tech horticulture

- Key applications of plasticsulture are spread across



Source: NCPAH

- Drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation that offer maximum water efficiency potential at 70% have received considerable adoption in India
- Micro irrigation techniques currently have been adopted in nearly 8.0 Mn hectares of cultivation in India while the latent potential is estimated around 69.5 mn hectares
- Micro irrigation market in India is valued at around INR 1,400 Cr and is growing rapidly at around 20% per annum
- Some the leading firms offering micro irrigation solutions in India include as Jain Irrigation, Netafim, Nagarjuna fertilizers and chemicals, EPC Industries and Finolex Plasson
- Other film based plasticsulture applications such as greenhouse, plastic tunnel, shade net and plastic mulching have limited penetration in the Indian market
- These applications, in aggregate, have a coverage of around 100,000 ha while the estimated potential is around 4 million Ha

- Key Government schemes that promote plasticsulture include National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNH) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Some concerns that limit the widespread adoption of plasticsulture in India are:



Small holdings size and lower income levels of farmers



High investment costs and limitation of funds for capital investment



Lack of awareness among farmers about the benefits of plasticsulture



Gaps in capacity building initiatives with untrained officials



Lack of clarity regarding subsidies and scheme benefits



Bureaucracy issues involving more than one Government department



Source Link:

<http://www.ncpahindia.com/precision-farming>

<http://www.ncpahindia.com/application>

<http://ncpahindia.com/nmmi/FinalNMMIReport.pdf>

[http://www.business-standard.com/content/b2b-plastics-polymers/nudging-india-out-from-water-stress-through-plasticulture-116072800155\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/content/b2b-plastics-polymers/nudging-india-out-from-water-stress-through-plasticulture-116072800155_1.html)

<http://www.ncpahindia.com/plasticulture>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/use-of-plastic-in-agriculture-can-boost-output-by-rs-68000-crore-report/articleshow/52255186.cms>