

## **Bhalia Wheat**

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- In a major boost to wheat exports, the first shipment of Geographical Indication (GI) certified Bhalia variety of wheat was exported to Kenya and Sri Lanka from Gujarat. The Bhalia variety of wheat received GI certification in July, 2011. The registered proprietor of GI certification is Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat.
- This wheat **has high protein and gluten content and is sweet in taste.** The crop is grown mostly across Bhal region of Gujarat which includes Ahmadabad, Anand, Kheda, Bhavanagar, Surendranagar, Bharuch districts.
- The unique characteristic of the wheat variety is that **grown in the rainfed condition without irrigation with the help of conserved moisture in the soil** and cultivated in around two lakh hectares of agricultural land in Gujarat. In the local language it is known as **Daudkhani.**
- This initiative is expected to give boost wheat exports from India. In 2020-21, the wheat exports from India witnessed a significant growth of 808 % to Rs 4034 crore reported in the previous fiscal year. India exported substantial quantity of grain to seven new countries Yemen, Indonesia, Bhutan, Philippines, Iran, Cambodia and Myanmar during 2020-21.

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