

# Between 1999-2000 and 2022-23, dip in cereal consumption: Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The share of cereals in total expenditure in rural India varies from 3% in Haryana, Kerala and Punjab to 7% in Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, survey results have shown.

Household Consumption Expenditure survey (HCES) for 2022-23 showed that in urban India, the share varies from 3% in Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu to 6% in Bihar and Jharkhand.

There has been a gradual decline in per capita quantity consumption of cereals in rural as well as urban areas between 1999-2000 to 2022-23 as greater prosperity has prompted people to shift to proteins, processed food and other items.

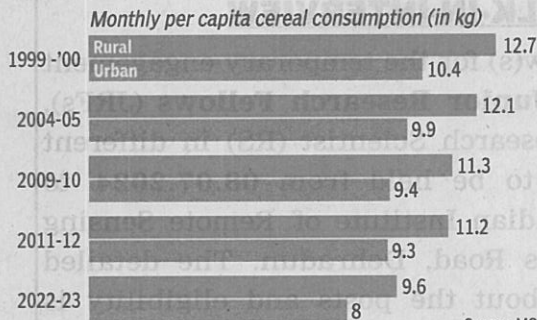
For instance, monthly per capita cereal consumption was highest in West Bengal at 11.2%, followed by Bihar at 11.1%. Kerala had lowest at 6.6%.

When it comes to percentage share of rice in total consumption of cereals, Assam was at 95.9%, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh at 92.2%, Telangana at 92.1% and Odisha at 90.7%.

Lowest was in Rajasthan at 3.2% and Haryana at 9.8% and Punjab at 11.6%.

## CHANGE IN FOOD HABIT

Trend in per capita quantity consumption of cereals since 1999-2000



"As incomes go up, cereal consumption goes down and more of proteins, milk, meat and eggs, and fruits and vegetables are consumed," said Ashok Gulati, Infosys chair professor of agriculture at economic think tank ICRIER, highlighting steady rise in incomes over the years which has helped income inequality to dip across country.

For wheat, highest consumption was Haryana at 88.6%, Punjab 87.5% and Rajasthan at 84.8%.

Lowest was in Assam at 4%, followed by Telangana at 5%, Tamil Nadu at 7.2%, Chhattisgarh at 7.8% and Odisha at 8.4%. Karnataka had highest share in coarse grains at 19.4%, followed by Gujarat

at 16.7% and Maharashtra at 12.3%. Share of West Bengal was nil, followed by UP and Kerala at 0.1%, Punjab at 0.6%.

The survey results showed that the share of food in total consumption expenditure of rural households varies from 39% in Kerala to 54% in Bihar and Assam. For the urban sector, the share of food in consumption expenditure varies from 35% in Telangana to 47% in Assam and Bihar.

Information in the survey was collected from 8,723 villages and 6,115 urban blocks spread over the entire country covering 2,61,746 households (1,55,014 in rural and 1,06,732 in urban areas).