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TEST CODE 6 1 3 1 2

FIAS – MGP 2023 (C-5) – Half Length Test #8

Time Allowed : One and Half Hours
समय : डेढ़ घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 125
अधिकतम अंक : 125

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	ANKUR KUMAR		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910106241	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र		Date/दिनांक	18/10/22

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INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश		
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।		
1			2. There are TEN questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory. उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।		
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।		
3			4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।		
4			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।		
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Total/कुल अंक	125		For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु		
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			2 : 35	4 : 08	
Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>	
*Evaluator's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the evaluator based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy. मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, प्रलोचार्त, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।			For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु		
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :

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Note: You can discuss your evaluated copy with the Mentor. Raise a ticket from your portal to schedule a mentor call or visit the online centre to meet the Mentor (all 7 days, Timings - 11 AM to 6 PM). Further if you are unsatisfied with the evaluation, you can seek re-evaluation of the copy.

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
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ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Q.1) How would you explain the anomaly of chronic hunger and malnutrition coexisting with surplus food grain production in the country? How can this anomaly be resolved? (10 marks, 150 words)

आप देश में अधिशेष खाद्यान्न उत्पादन के साथ-साथ गहन भूख और कुपोषण की विसंगति की व्याख्या कैसे करेंगे? इस विसंगति को कैसे दूर किया जा सकता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India faces a unique paradox of chronic hunger & malnutrition coexisting with surplus food grain production. Despite 507 grams of per capita food availability, India ranked 107th in Global Hunger Index 2022 & 71st in Global Food Security Index 2021.

• Reasons behind this anomaly -

- Persistent poverty affects both food security as well as nutritional security.
- As per FAO, around 40% of food produced is wasted every year in India.
- Gender inequality - 57% of women in India suffer from Anaemia as per NFHS-5 report (Men - 25%, Children - 67%)
- Leakages & corruption in PDS structure.

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- Poor implementation of Mid-day Meal scheme.
- Mono culture & Cerealisation of our cropping pattern compromises our nutritional security.
- Potential measures to resolve this Anomaly -
- A shift towards nutrition-sensitive food system & agri-diversification.
- Promotion of Food Processing Industry to reduce food wastage.
- Replication of schemes like - Project SAMPOORNA (in Bongaigaon, Assam against malnutrition in children) in other parts of India.
- Plugging the leakages in PDS & PM-POSHAN.
- Spreading gender awareness & nutrition awareness.
- Promoting the intake of locally available food e.g. Millets.

Thus, these measures must be strictly enforced for sustainable achievement of SDG-2 - ZERO HUNGER & capitalise on our Demographic Dividend.

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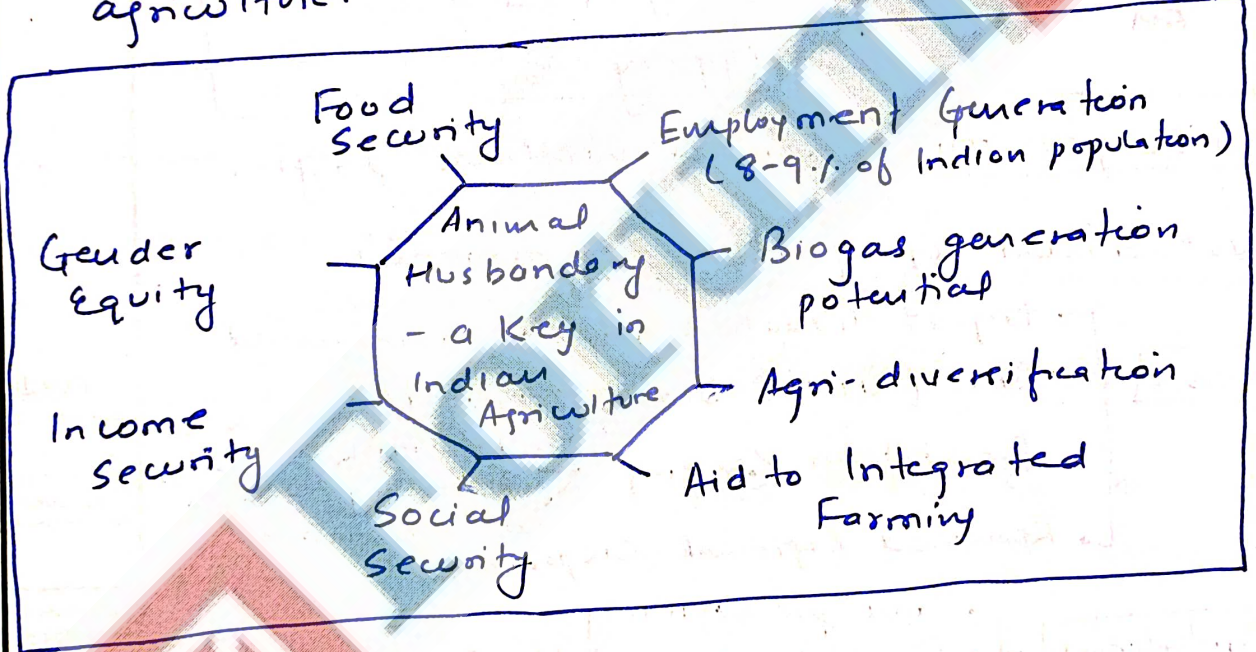
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Q.2) Animal husbandry is the key to supplement farm income, make agriculture sustainable and enhance value addition in food processing chain. Discuss and evaluate the various government measures to boost animal husbandry sector. (10 marks, 150 words)

पशुपालन कृषि आय के पूरक, कृषि को टिकाऊ बनाने और खाद्य प्रसंस्करण श्रृंखला में मूल्यवर्धन करने की कुंजी है। पशुपालन क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए विभिन्न सरकारी उपायों पर चर्चा और मूल्यांकन करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

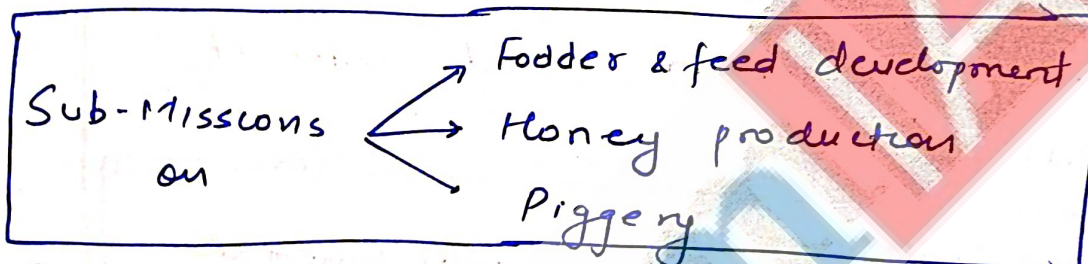
Animal husbandry is a branch of agriculture that deals with livestock raising & their selective breeding as an allied sector of agriculture.



- Govt's schemes to boost Animal Husbandry -
- Rashtriya Gokul Mission - to develop & conserve indigenous livestock and promoting dairy sector of India.
- National Livestock Mission - for capacity

building of different stakeholders of this sector.

- Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) - to promote pvt. investments in ~~agri~~ animal husbandry.
- National Artificial Insemination Programme - to enhance the efficiency of our livestock



→ Pashu Sanyeevani - animal wellness prog.

• Evaluation of Govt programmes

- **Success**
 - largest livestock population in world
 - 4% of GDP & 31% of Agri-GDP
 - Production Ranking
 - 1st - Milk
 - 2nd - Fisheries
 - 3rd - Egg
 - Reduced Regional Disparities

- **Limitations**
 - low productivity
 - limited diagnostic services
 - lack of access to organised market
 - shrinking pastures

Thus, the govt. needs to improve on these limitations apart from bolstering AHIDF, capacity building & technology upgradation in Animal Husbandry Sector.

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Q.3) Despite their flaws in limiting access to larger market and poor price realization for agricultural produce, APMCs have their utility. Analyse the statement and suggest reforms in agriculture marketing in the country.
(10 marks, 150 words)

बड़े बाजार तक पहुंच को सीमित करने और कृषि उपज के लिए कम कीमत की वसूली में उनकी खामियों के बावजूद, एपीएमसी की अपनी उपयोगिता है। कथन का विश्लेषण करें और देश में कृषि विपणन में सुधारों का सुझाव दें।
(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

APMC is a govt operated network of Mandis for sale of agricultural produce to prevent exploitation & distress sale of farmers.

Flaws in APMC functioning

- Monopoly Monopolization by APMCs
- Cartelization by middlemen to manipulate prices

APMC Mandis	→ Required - 50,000 or 1/50 km ²
	→ Present - 7700 or 1/462 km ²

- Discouraged private investment in agriculture
- Only 50% of the APMCs Mandis have appropriate grading & weighing facilities
- Multiple layers of license fees.

Utility of APMCs

- Certain degree of safeguard is provided to the farmers from exploitation by middlemen.

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- Reasonable control on food prices.
- Reasonable storage facilities
- Can help in management of Post-harvest losses.

• Major Agricultural Marketing Reforms required in India

- Upgradation of infrastructure in terms of cold chain storage, modern phytosanitary gradation systems etc
- Development of a national integrated market via - eNAM.
- Boosting pub. investment by incentivising contract farming & PPP models.
- Dismantling of cartelisation of traders.
- Strengthening of branding & IPR regime for agri-exports
- Removal of information asymmetry to alleviate regional disparities.
- Promoting digital literacy among farmers via CSCs & KVKs.

Reforming our Agri-marketing system is critical for alleviating Hunger crisis (SDG-2) & promoting agri-exports.

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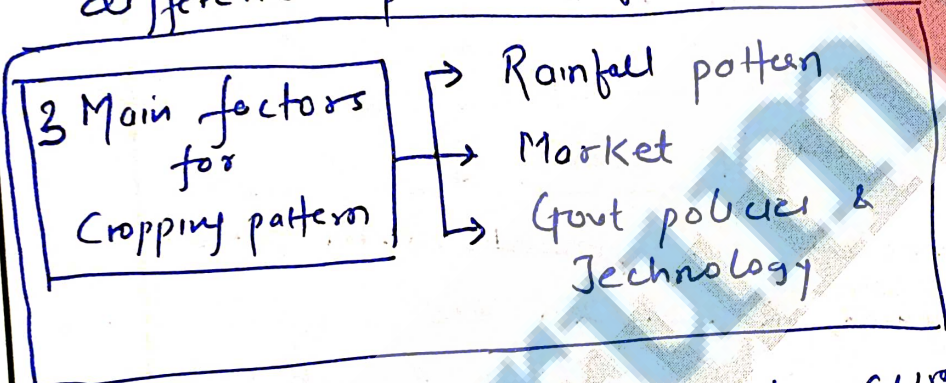
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Q.4) Cropping pattern in the country does not concur with the agro-climatic reality, leading to unintended and undesirable consequences. Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

देश में फसल पैटर्न कृषि-जलवायु वास्तविकता से मेल नहीं खाता है, जिसके कारण अनपेक्षित और अवांछनीय परिणाम होते हैं। टिप्पणी करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Cropping pattern of a country refers to the proportion of land under cultivation of different crops at different points of time.



Indian cropping pattern of current times shows the predominance of factors like market & Govt policies over the natural factors of rainfall & soil, which is a major issue devoid of agro-climatic reality of India.

• Indian cropping pattern in discordance with its Agro-climatic reality -

→ Paddy, a water intensive crop, being the major crop in Punjab, due to MSP policy.

- Sugarcane, a water guzzler, being a major crop in Southern Rajasthan, Maharashtra etc due to govt policies & FRP.
- Methanol cultivation in water-stressed Bundelkhand region
- Areca nut cultivation in water-deficient inner regions of Karnataka.
- 'Cerealisation' of cropping patterns due to MSP, lure

• Its unfortunate consequences

- Accelerated decline in ground water table in Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka etc
- Poor soil health in regions of Punjab & Haryana due to excessive fertilizer use
- Cerealisation & monoculture due to MSP creating a danger of Nutritional Security.
- Regional disparity
- Disparity between farmers

∴ We need better pricing tools, agro-climatic planning & use of modern technology like GIS, Drones etc. Schemes like Soil Health Card must be expanded on a war footing.

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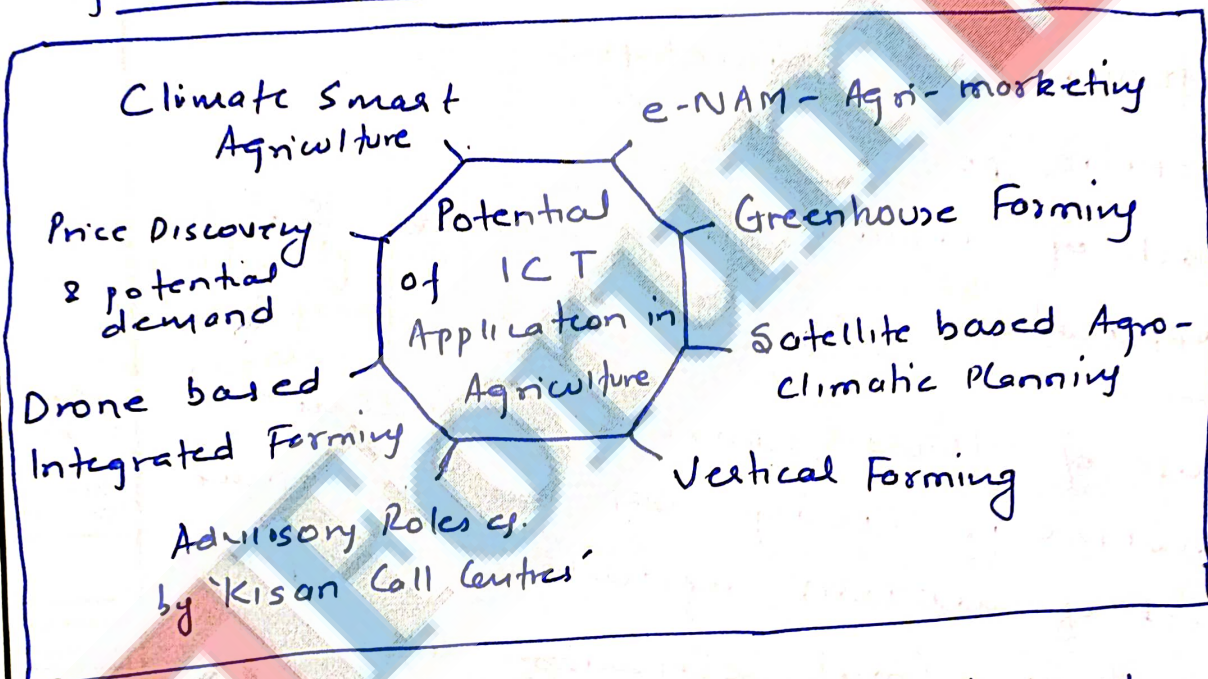
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Q.5) Digital technologies can transform agriculture into an enterprise. Examine and identify various constraints in application of ICT in agricultural sector. (10 marks, 150 words)

डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकियां कृषि को एक उद्यम में बदल सकती हैं। कृषि क्षेत्र में आईसीटी के अनुप्रयोग में विभिन्न बाधाओं की जांच और पहचान करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

As per the Economic Survey of India, Digital technologies can be a game-changer for Indian agriculture in terms of agri-modernisation & doubling of farmers income.



• Constraints in ICT application in Agriculture

In spite of the potential, ICT faces many challenges in India -

→ Huge digital illiteracy in rural India which is the core of Indian agriculture

- High cost of ICT use & low incomes of majority of Indian farmers
- Poor internet operability in various agricultural regions like - Riyalseema, & North East
- Behavioural barriers of farmers
- Threat of digital divide frustrating the regional disparities
- Lack of adequate govt support & will
- Information asymmetry
- Erratic power supply
- Lack of inbuilt infrastructure for application of ICT.

Because of these constraints, Indian agriculture is losing out on a critical aspect of modern agriculture - ICT application. Govt schemes like - PMGDISHA (digital literacy in rural areas), CSCs, Kisan Vigyan Kendras, Diffusion of Innovation & PPP models etc ~~are~~ need to be strengthened in the milieu of climate change.

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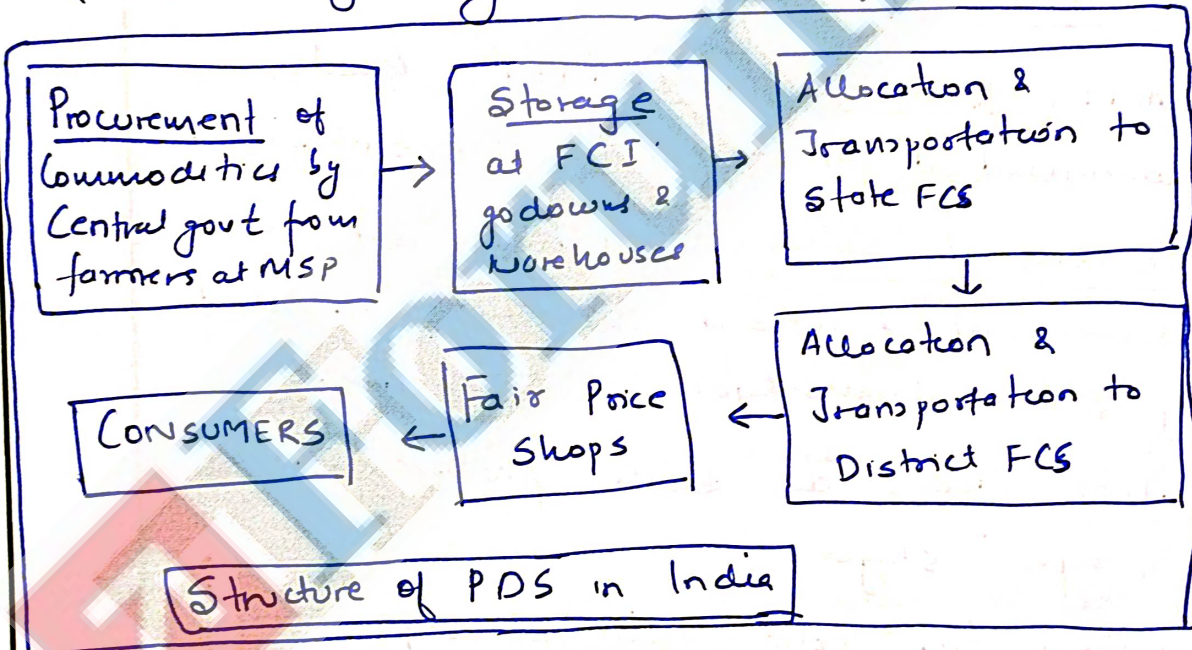
Q.6) Reforms in Public distribution system (PDS) and Food Corporation of India (FCI) are two sides of the same coin. Discuss the statement along with suitable reforms in PDS and FCI.

(15 marks, 250 words)

सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) और भारतीय खाद्य निगम (FCI) में सुधार एक ही सिक्के के दो पहलू हैं। PDS और FCI में उपयुक्त सुधारों के साथ इस कथन पर चर्चा करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

PDS is a govt sponsored structure for providing basic food & non-food commodities to the disadvantaged groups of the society at very low prices. FCI is a statutory body which manages the PDS.



• Convergence of PDS & FCI reforms -

→ FCI is an integral element of the PDS structure of India. Hence, any reforms related to the FCI, inevitably

becomes a part of PDS reform. e.g.
Cold-chain storage, wastage etc.
→ But, the reforms required in the PDS structure go beyond the FCI reforms e.g. exclusion errors in ration card membership, leakage at Fair Price Shops etc.

• Reforms required in PDS & FCI

→ FCI Reforms -

- SHANTA KUMAR COMMITTEE had recommended to institute Decentralised Procurement Scheme whereby all procurement functions should be handled by States themselves & not Centre.
- Quality checks at both procurement & storage stages
- Improving the cold chain storage infrastructure with modern temperature regulation facilities
- Reducing wastage arising out of the Buffer Stock.

- more proactive open market sale operations.
- Other PDS reforms -
- Doorstep Delivery of ration
- Elimination of leakage by using GPS enabled transporting vehicles & digitised accounts
- Reducing fake ration cards
eg - Bar coded ration card - Chhattisgarh
Food Coupons - Bihar
- Potential of DBT in PDS
- Ironing out issues related to failure of Aadhar linkage at the Ration shops
- Diversification of food items for nutritional security of people.
- Elimination of Urban bias

PDS & FCI are two lynchpins of the Food Security Structure of India which would enable us to complete the targets of SDG 2 - zero Hunger. Hence, the above reforms must be expedited.

Feedback

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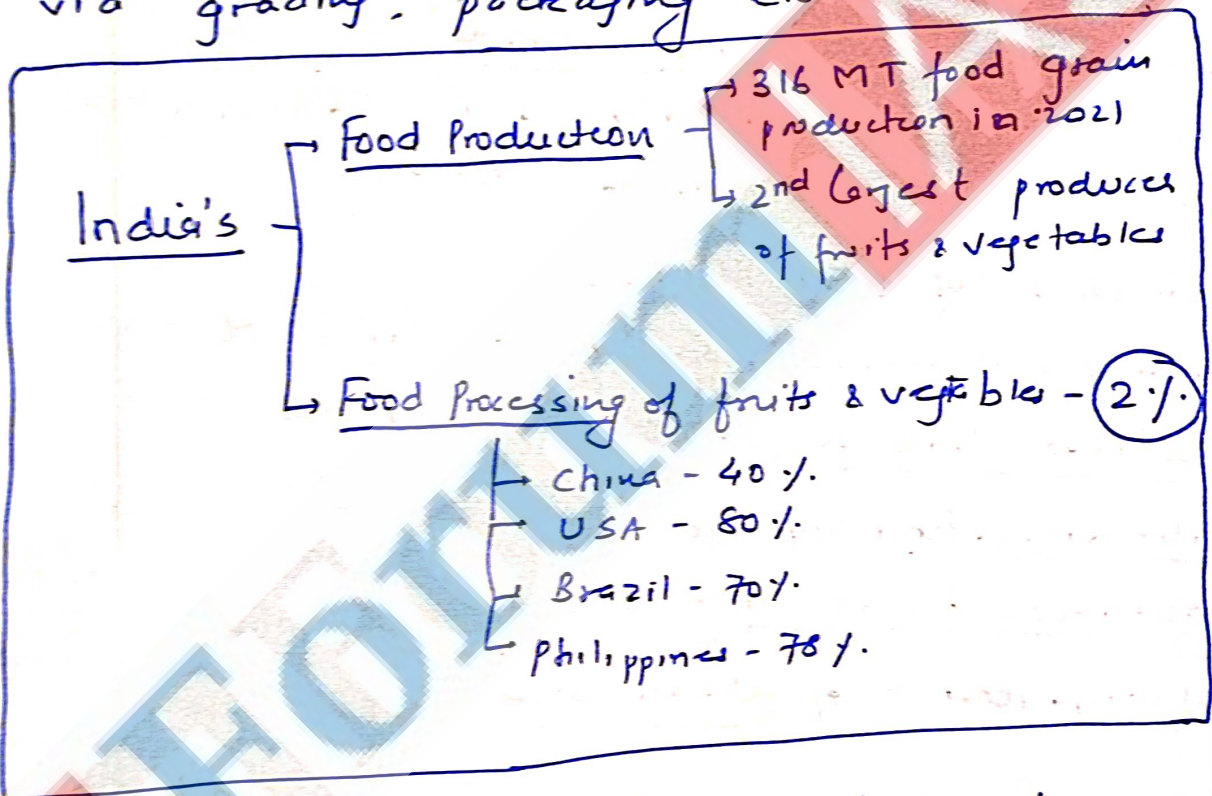


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Q.7) India is one of the largest producers of food, yet Food Processing Industry (FPI) is not well developed in the country. Examine the inhibiting factors and recommend some remedial actions to promote FPIs. (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत खाद्यान्न के सबसे बड़े उत्पादकों में से एक है, फिर भी देश में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग (FPI) अच्छी तरह से विकसित नहीं हो पाई है। अवरोधक कारकों की जांच करें और FPI को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कुछ उपचारात्मक कार्रवाइयों की सिफारिश करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Food processing is the process of value addition to the agricultural produce via grading, packaging etc.



As per the Economic Survey, India has failed in tapping into the potential of food processing despite a substantial food production.

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• Inhibiting factors in development of

FPI in India -

- Infrastructural bottlenecks - e.g. Lack of adequate storage & processing machineries at farms; lack of modern refrigerated transportation vehicles etc
- low per capita income levels is a demand side constraint for FPIs
- Poor control on forward & backward linkages e.g. legal battle faced by 'LAYS' for quality of potato inputs in Gujarat.
- Relatively higher cost of raw materials, packaging & advertisement.
- Constraints of regulatory environment from multiple agencies & departments with safety, packaging etc
- Lack of trained manpower
- Lack of credit facilities to FPI sector
- Relatively ignored sector by the govt till recently.

• Remedial Actions to promote FPIs in India

- Use of fiscal incentives at stages of backward & forward linkages
- Application of innovative partnership models & for ~~contract~~ development of infrastructure
 - ← logistics & supply chain
 - storage
 - processing
- More attractive Contract farming bargains
- Establishing village level procurement centres for perishables like- fruits, dairy & vegetables as suggested by NITI Aayog's Strategy for New India @ 75.
- Promotion of Entrepreneurship culture.
- More effective promotion of FPIs with schemes like -
 - Mega Food Park
 - TRIPOD
 - One District One Product
 - PM Kisan SAMPAHA Yojana
 - Operation Greens.

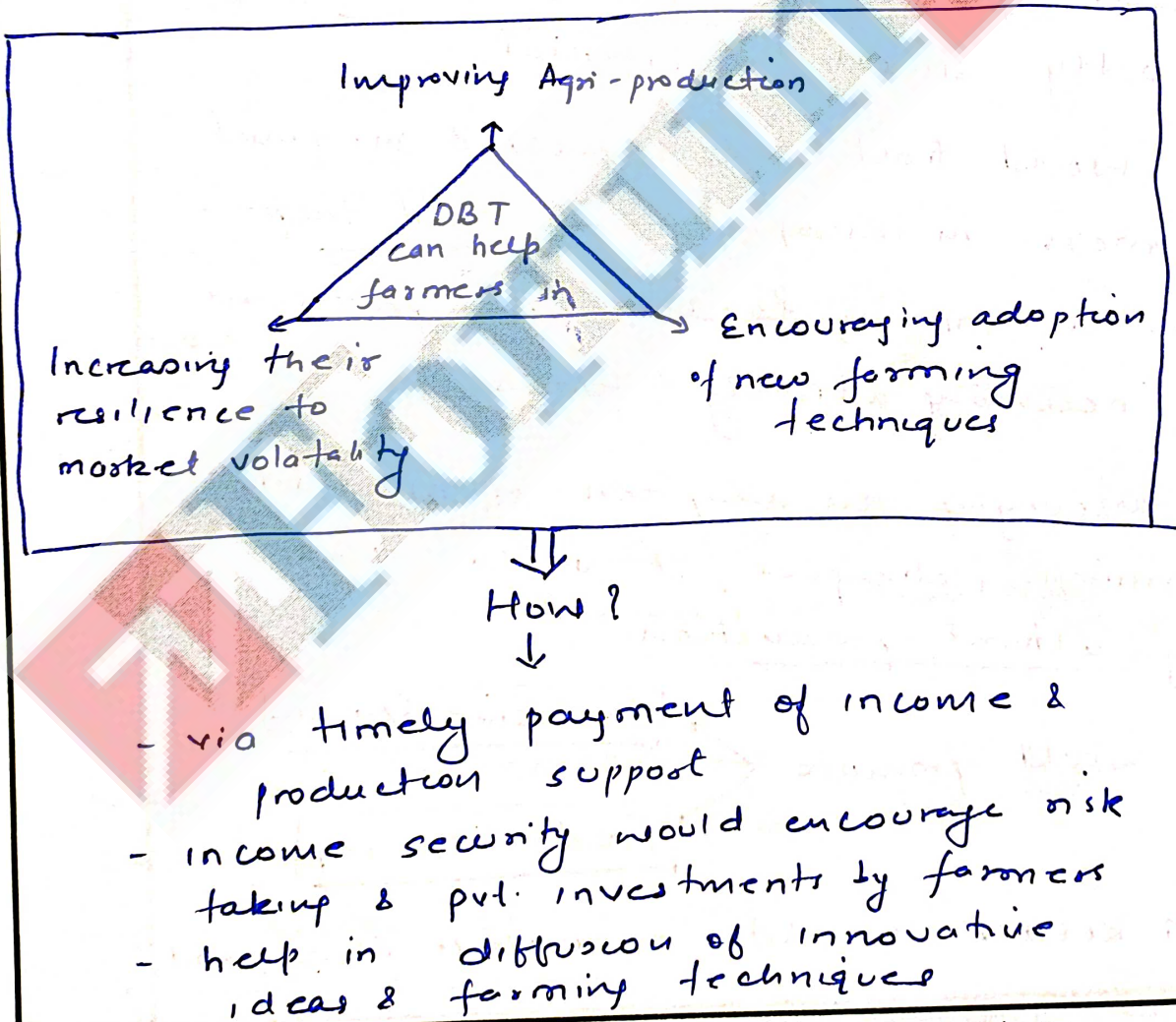
As per FAO, India's FPI sector has an immense potential to meet the needs of food security, employment generation & GDP expansion. We must act now!

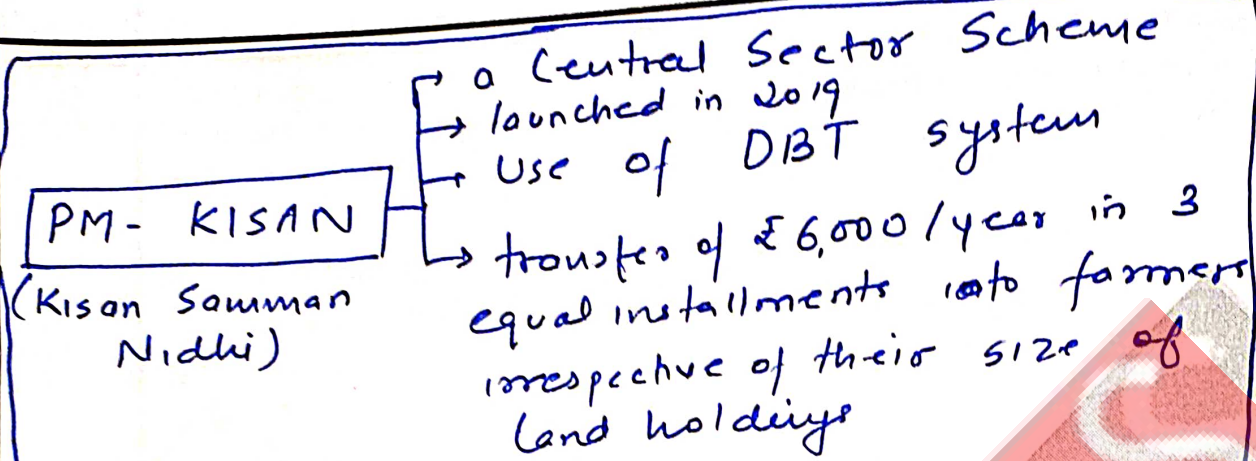
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Q.8) Direct income transfer to farmers can improve production, increase resilience to market volatility and encourage adoption of new farming techniques. Analyze the various benefits and bottlenecks of the PM-Kisan Yojana. (15 marks, 250 words)

किसानों को प्रत्यक्ष आय हस्तांतरण, उत्पादन में सुधार कर सकता है, बाजार की अस्थिरता के प्रति लचीलापन बढ़ा सकता है और नई कृषि तकनीकों को अपनाने को प्रोत्साहित कर सकता है। पीएम-किसान योजना के विभिन्न लाभों और बाधाओं का विश्लेषण करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Economic Survey of India has touted the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) as a potential system to revolutionise the agriculture sector of India.





Benefits of PM-KISAN

- It would supplement the financial needs of about 14.5 crore farmers, mostly small & marginal
- It would help the small & marginal farmers in escaping the debt trap of the money lenders by provision of necessary & timely funds.
- By encouraging the adoption of modern farming techniques, it would boost agricultural production.
- It would promote
 - **Inclusive Growth**
 - **Food Security**
- PM KISAN would encourage & expand

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- Financial Inclusion in rural areas.
- It can reduce farmer suicides in India
 - It can reduce disparities in agriculture.

• Bottle necks of PM-KISAN Yojane

- Inefficiency of last mile delivery mechanism
- Weak Grievance redressal mechanism
- Poor financial literacy of farmers.
- High food subsidy bill
- Recent surveys have shown a regional bias in DBT delivery against the farmers of eastern & north-eastern India.
- Due to information asymmetry, relatively more prosperous farmers have benefitted more.

Thus, these bottlenecks must be ironed out for true realisation of the potential of PM KISAN of pragmatic betterment of Indian Agriculture.

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Q.9) Discuss the rationale behind declaring Minimum Support Price (MSP) and various issues related to MSP regime in the country. Do you think that providing legal backing to MSP is necessary and sufficient for making farming financially sustainable? (15 marks, 250 words)

न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) घोषित करने के पीछे के तर्क और देश में MSP शासन से संबंधित विभिन्न मुद्दों पर चर्चा करें। क्या आपको लगता है कि खेती को आर्थिक रूप से टिकाऊ बनाने के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य को कानूनी समर्थन देना आवश्यक और पर्याप्त है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the rate at which the govt purchases crops from farmers. CACP recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops (14 Kharif, 6 Rabi, 2 Commercial) and Fixed Remunerative Price for Sugarcane.

• Rationale behind MSP declaration

- Income security of farmers get ensured
- Promotes increase in agricultural production
- Ensures food security of India
- Maintenance of Buffer stocks of food in a land troubled with vagaries of monsoon.
- MSP backed buffer stocks can be used by govt in controlling the inflation levels.

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- Issues related to MSP regime
 - Inter-coop disparity - Procurement crops remains mainly restricted to wheat & paddy.
 - Inter-region disparity - Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir etc account for the lion's share of national procurement.
 - Inter-farmer disparity - As per National Commission on Agriculture, only 6% of Indian farmers, mostly large & medium, are benefited from MSP.
 - Food Subsidy Bill - MSP related procurement accounts for a heavy food subsidy bill, limiting the fiscal space of govt for other welfare work.
 - Food wastage - As per the CAG report, Buffer stocks lead to food wastage due to excessive procurement.
 - Political Cronyism
 - Presence of Middlemen in the MSP & PDS chain.

(Don't
anything

Q.10) How far
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• Prospects of legalising MSP -

→ Benefits for farmers -

- Fixed amount of procurement would boost agricultural production of mandated crops
- Payment of full MSP price would bring income security.

→ Insufficiency of legalising MSP -

- It would increase the food subsidy burden to unsustainable levels
- It would engender more acute WTO legal battles for India
- It can spike inflation concerns
- It won't resolve the nutritional security issue
- Regional bias & inter-crop bias would get further accentuated.

Therefore, we need better methods for making farming financially sustainable of

- promoting Price support measures e.g. M.P's Bhawantar Bhugtan Yojana.
- promoting digital technologies like e-NAM for better price discovery
- promoting agri-diversification, animal husbandry etc & other agri-reforms.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
Total	

Q.10) How far do you agree that green revolution has made the present generation food sufficient at the cost of nutritional security of future generations? Also, recommend measures to transform green revolution into evergreen revolution. (15 marks, 250 words)

आप कहाँ तक सहमत हैं कि हरित क्रांति ने भावी पीढ़ियों की पोषण सुरक्षा की कीमत पर वर्तमान पीढ़ी के भोजन को पर्याप्त बना दिया है? साथ ही, हरित क्रांति को सदाबहार क्रांति में बदलने के उपायों की सिफारिश करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Green Revolution was started in 1960s in India by introduction of HYVs of rice & wheat for increasing agricultural production & alleviating the hunger crisis prevalent at that time.

• Efficacy of GR in our food sufficiency

Success

- Self-sufficiency in food production has been ensured (316 MT of food grain production in 2021-22)
- India has become a net-exporter of food grains
- India's per capita food availability is amongst world's highest.

Limitations

- As per the Global Hunger Index 2022, India ranks 107th & has 16.3% of its population as undernourished
- Nutritional security is still a challenge
- Instances of child wasting & stunting are still high

Thus, quantitative self sufficiency in food has been ^{largely} achieved in India, but on the qualitative front, we still need to work.

- GR jeopardised the nutritional security of future generations -
 - Overuse of chemical fertilizers has aggravated the soil health in various parts of India.
 - GR backed monoculture a 'cerealisation' of our cropping patterns threaten the nutritional diversity aspects of India
 - Over-mining of underground water is sucking the aquifers dry.
 - Instances of contamination of food chain with Arsenic, Mercury, Cadmium etc.
 - cropping pattern being out of sync with agro-climatic zones.

All these factors threaten a 'Malthusian Collapse' of our nutritional security.

Thus, there is a call for a shift to an Evergreen Revolution.

Don't Write anything in this

(Don't Write anything in this Area)

- Measures for a shift from GR to Evergreen Revolution -
- Promoting natural farming methods like
 - Organic Farming
 - Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)
- Opting for Climate Smart Agriculture & Conservation Agriculture as recommend by FAO.
- Shifting to Agro-ecological farming systems
- Enhancing farmer incomes
- Innovative practices like -
 - System of Rice Intensification (SRI)
 - Below Sea Level Farming in coastal areas. (eg. Kuttanad)
- Using technology
 - Bio technology - eg. Arsenic resistant rice
 - Satellite & Drone technology for Integrated Farming Systems
 - Vertical Farming, Hydroponics etc
- Better Crop Insurance schemes

All these methods are crucial for a shift to the Evergreen revolution.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Test Goal

- 1
- 2
- 3

Outcomes

-
-
-
-

Marking Scheme

Mark	Good	Average	Below average
10 Marker	3.75 – 5.0	3.0 – 3.5	< 3.0
15 Marker	5.75 – 7.0	4.0 – 5.5	< 4.0
✓✓	Key / Relevant Point		
✗	Vague / Irrelevant		

* Subject to change without prior notice.