

GS-III: Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System - objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

1. Calling Zero Budget Natural Farming an “unproven” technology will not bring Tangible Gain to either farmers or consumers. Comment

Why this Question?

- ▶▶ The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the country’s top body of farm scientists, has criticised zero-budget natural farming, calling it an “unproven” technology that will not bring tangible gain to either farmers or consumers.

Key Demands of Question:

- ▶▶ Answer must explain what is Zero budget Natural Farming,
- ▶▶ What are its significance to Indian agriculture.
- ▶▶ Why government is Insisting it now.
- ▶▶ Why some of the experts are critical towards ZBNF and what is there argument against it.
- ▶▶ You need to take a stand based on rational argument.

Comment:

- ▶▶ When you are asked to comment, you have to pick main points and give your ‘opinion’ on them based on evidences or arguments stemming from your wide reading.
- ▶▶ Your opinion may be for or against, but you must back your argument with evidences. These types of question offer you a chance to consolidate your reading of different subjects to justify your opinion.

Structure of Answer:

Introduction:

- ▶▶ It would be good if you know the exact context of the question do write it, if not then do write What is exactly Zero Budget Natural Farming.

Body:

- ▶▶ Initially explain why government is Insisting on Zero budget Natural Farming.(Include overuse of fertilisers by Indian farmer)
- ▶▶ Write what government scheme is represented in this.
- ▶▶ Significance of the Zero budget natural Farming in relation to Indian agriculture.
- ▶▶ State the expert opinion on Zero budget natural farming and reasons for it.
- ▶▶ Do mention overuse of fertilisers situations in Indian agriculture.

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- ▶▶ Is ZBNF has capacity to cope with food security requirements of the Nation.

Conclusion:

- ▶▶ Conclude with taking a rational stand on the issue and state some way forward.

