

2. Measures to strengthen Agriculture Sector in India

Prelims Syllabus: Economics

Mains Syllabus: GS-III Indian Economy and Issues Relating to planning, mobilization of resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

Why in News?

- Union Finance Minister announced the 3rd Tranche of measures to strengthen Infrastructure Logistics, Capacity Building, Governance and Administrative Reforms for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Processing Sectors.


Booster dose

The third tranche of the measures announced under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** focuses on agriculture and allied activities

- Funds worth **₹1 lakh crore** to be given to agricultural cooperative societies, farmer producer organisations and

- start-ups for boosting farm-gate infrastructure
- **₹10,000 crore** for formalisation of micro-food enterprises; cluster-based farming approach to be followed
- **₹20,000 crore** for fishermen under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana; expected to pave way for additional fish production of 70 lakh tonnes over 5 years
- **₹13,000 crore** drive to achieve 100% vaccination of cattle, buffalos, sheep, goats and pigs

- **₹15,000 crore** boost for animal husbandry infrastructure
- **₹4,000 crore** for promotion of herbal cultivation; 10 lakh hectares to be covered
- **₹500 crore** for beekeeping initiatives
- Essential Commodities Act, 1955, to be amended to de-regulate **cereals, edible oils, oilseeds, pulses, onion and potato**
- Marketing reforms to be undertaken to provide adequate choice for **farmers to sell produce** at prices of their choice



A farmer carries strawberries after harvesting them in Srinagar on Friday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

GATEWAY

Highlights:

- The recent package is a part of the Special economic and comprehensive package of Rs 20 lakh crore - equivalent to 10% of India's GDP, announced recently amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat or Self-Reliant India Movement having five pillars - Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography and Demand, is what this special economic and comprehensive package called.
- Two significant Agriculture-related measures were also announced as part of 2nd tranche to support farmers -
- Additional Emergency Working Capital facility through NABARD to enable RRBs and Cooperative Banks extending farm loans for Rabi post-harvest and Kharif expenses and
- Credit boost to the farm sector by covering 2.5 crore PM-KISAN beneficiaries under Kisan Credit Card Scheme.

Measures Announced:

- Out of these 11 measures, 8 measures are for improving agricultural infrastructure and 3 measures are for administrative and governance reforms, including removing restrictions on sale and stock limits of farm produce. Measures are
- Rs 1 lakh crore Agri Infrastructure Fund for farm-gate infrastructure for farmers:
- Impetus for development of farm-gate & aggregation point, affordable and financially viable Post Harvest Management infrastructure. The fund will be created immediately.
- Rs 10,000 crore scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (MFE):
- A Scheme promoting the government's vision: 'Vocal for Local with Global outreach' will be launched to help 2 lakh MFEs who need technical upgradation to attain FSSAI food standards, build brands and marketing.
- The focus will be on women and SC/ST owned units and those in Aspirational districts and a Cluster based approach (e.g. Mango in UP, Tomato in Karnataka, Chilli in Andhra Pradesh, Orange in Maharashtra etc.) will be followed.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):

- The Government will launch the PMMSY for integrated, sustainable, inclusive development of marine and inland fisheries. The focus will be on Islands, Himalayan States, North-east and Aspirational Districts.
- Rs 11,000 crore for activities in Marine, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture and Rs. 9000 crore for Infrastructure - Fishing Harbours, Cold chain, Markets etc shall be provided.
- Impact: This will lead to Additional Fish Production of 70 lakh tonnes over 5 years, Employment to over 55 lakh persons and double the exports to Rs 1,00,000 crore.

National Animal Disease Control Programme:

- National Animal Disease Control Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis launched with total outlay of Rs. 13,343 crore to ensure 100% vaccination of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat and pig population for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and for brucellosis.