

Despite better performance, the incomes of small farmers are still low in the country. Do you agree with this view. Substantiate (200 words)

Ans: From the report published by the NSSO and SAS, we could infer that even though the income has been increasing from 2002-2003 to 2012-13 & 2013-14, the rate of increase in income has been drastically decelerating in these quarters.

The main factor for the decrease is the increase in the cost of cultivation, where factors such as wages, procurement of seeds, come into play.

But what keeps the income of the farmers safely in balance is the rise of livestock and its derivatives.

State-wise: Meghalaya has an average income of ₹10,000 and whereas 16 states of the 28 states, the income lies between ₹4,437-₹9,900 and seven states have ~~an~~ a low income than the national average.

MSPs alone cannot be supportive enough for the increase in the income of farmers but through public-private partnerships, there can be an slow but steady increase in the betterment of the livelihood of farmers.

Way forward: (1) There should be a change from a producer-centric approach to a market-centric

approach.

② Schemes where there is involvement of both government and private players, i.e., private players help in the development, infrastructure, inputs etc and Government helping in procurement of finished goods at reasonable prices, providing employment during off-season and providing loans at low rates of interest will encourage the farmers to improve their standard of living.