

Collectivisation of small farmers is key to sustained agricultural growth & food security. Analyse the statement & discuss how such groupings could be strengthened.

India is largely characterized by low scale & low productivity farming mainly due to high land fragmentation, thereby creating a class of over 80% of small & marginal farmers in India.

This is a threat to agriculture growth & food security only when these farmers act independently. Whereas if the idea of grouping such small farmers are practiced, it would lead to —

- Increased bargaining power at point of sale.
- Access to larger market & far-away markets due to resource pooling for logistics. (exports)



• Improved farm outputs as collective decisions are taken ~~for~~ at initial stages of production.

• Builds a better credit-worthy profile & access to institutional credit is more or less ensured.

• Working in groups in times of economic distress will help eliminate caste-based, religion-based differences in rural India.

~~may help in achieving international presence through~~

Such groupings could be strengthened by meaningful intervention of government by —

→ Providing legal status to such groups, such as done with Farmer Producer Organisation [FPOs]

→ Strengthen rural local bodies to act as regulators and ensure uniform governance structure in such groupings, as it is prone to regional variation.

→ Provide maximum support to programmes such as ARYA [Augmentation of Rural Youth in Agriculture] & extend it to make upcoming farmers a rural entrepreneurs.

→ Private investors may be allowed to adopt any group of farmers, but under stringent laws.

Several social science ~~research~~ studies have shown that with robust agriculture growth, more people comes out of poverty not just in rural but also in urban India. Thus, collectivisation of small farmer is key to sustained agricultural growth & food security.