

Government of India needs to intervene in the dairy sector to prevent the impending crisis. Analyse the context of pandemic (200 Words)

During first wave of pandemic in the economic down situation Agriculture and allied sector showed a spectacular performance of 3.4% of economic growth. It involved around 77 lakh cattle farmers [of 7 crore farmers]

Though agriculture sector saw growth, allied dairy sector had a huge hit.

As milk does not have any periodical Minimum support price but have fat content based rate fixed by co-operatives. This rate is always 20-30% lower than the market price.

Lockdown imposed forced the cattle farmers to sell their liquid milk wholly to co-operatives. This has caused livelihood crisis. Adding up to this milk based product shops, cattle feed shops were closed and declined demand hit them hard.

- In order to support their government should ensure
- (i) Stable dairy market
 - (ii) Remunerative price through costing
litre wise
 - (iii) Uninterrupted medicine and
supply of fodder at reasonable price
 - (iv) Better reproductivity through ~~(AI)~~
Nationwide (Artificial Insemination) Program

Welcome steps taken by Government

- Has targeted to augment milk production from 1860 kg/animal to 3000 kg/animal ~~from~~ through Nationwide (AI) programme which could increase income to farmers and enhance export.
- Inclusion of dairy farmers in Kisan Credit Card scheme ensure financial support.
- Dairy farmers brought under MGNREGA to compensate loss during Covid-19.

Thus fruitful interventions of Government must ensure livelihood to small, marginal and landless dairy farmers in pandemic. This will make India continue as largest producer of milk in world (22% of world production)