

UPSC

Q.1

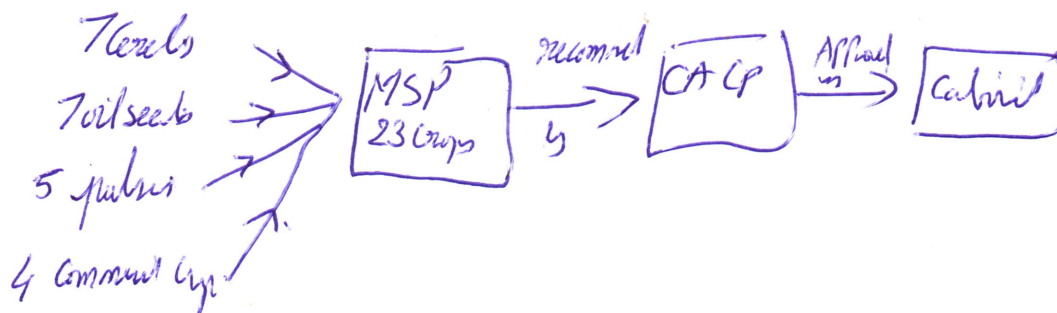
Setting up of a Minimum Support Price panel (MSP) and the Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) can transform the Indian Agriculture in various ways. Explain (200 Words).

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Doubling farmers income has been the goal of the Indian government during the recent times but the government also need to look into its own exchequer. So both MSP panel and ZBNF has great potential.

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MSP is an agreed price under which the government procures notified crops.



This weighs in on the fiscal burden on the budget of the government. During recent protest, the farmers demand legal backing for MSP which may result in 1.3 lakh crore of budget which is not feasible.

This ensure farmers to produce only the notified MSP crops without exploring the prospect of other crops in the market. Farmer loses freedom to produce. Which is against free market.

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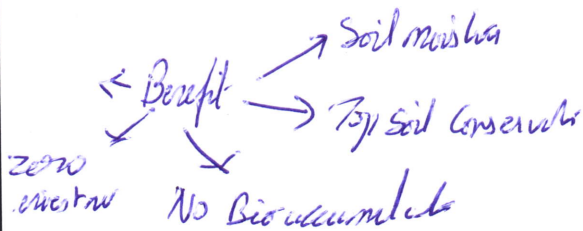
So MSP panel is best alternative and a middle ground for both sides.

MSP Panel \rightarrow Scientist + Farmers + Central govt + State govt
~~represent~~ ~~represent~~

This will be a political body which is free for bias.

ZBNF: This signifies zero cost before - during - after harvest for farmers.

Most of the government subsidies & farmers' debt are due to fertilizers & pesticides. Most of the household income is spent on the above input.



Hence we can increase the income opportunities by decreasing the input expenditure. Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy here. Thus this policy change may bring great changes in the sector.

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