

Crop diversification

4. Crop diversification is essential to sustain livelihoods of the farmers and agricultural sector in the country. Elaborate

The Indian agriculture mainly focus towards Rice (Kharif crop) and wheat (Rabi crop) as main sources of farming. But in order to increase the profit maximisation, crop diversification is essential in Indian agricultural sector.

Profit maximisation:

1. The staple crops of wheat and rice farming has to be coupled with pulses, horticulture crops etc.
2. The government allows MSP for 23 types of crops and hence crop diversification will ensure assurance if farmers don't get price assurance in market.
3. (e.g) 2020 Trade basket → pulses production through National Pulses Mission through Integrated farming resulted in 17% increase in returns, through PSL-18% loans

Climate Change phenomenon:

1. Crops require certain range of temperature, rainfall and humidity for growth.

- Recent climate change indicate Indian agricultural to diversify crops in order to have sustainable farming in Indian future.
- (e.g) Traditional seed varieties due to non-farming are being forgotten and new diseases arises - Ministry of Agriculture.

Water Scarcity Issues:

- Indian agriculture is under Water stress category after - FAO.
- Thus crop diversification through hybrid seeds and genetic additions will ensure Indian agriculture.
- (e.g) PM-KUSUM assures water security and nutritional security through crop diversification.

Concerns and Challenges:

- Inadequate supply of seeds:
The Indian agriculture co-operatives still lacks grass root supply of hybrid seeds as encountered in Operation TOP at Eastern India.
- Lack of MSP and Subsidy:
1- Still many horticulture crops lacks MSP and fertilizer subsidy for vegetables is lacking due to administrative concerns.
Thus the diversity of crops through government's supportable scheme will double farmer's income by 2022.