

1) (i) Govt of India needs to intervene in the dairy sector to prevent the impending crisis. Analyse in the context of pandemic -

India is the largest milk producing country in the world with contribution of 22.1% of total produce. These major contribution comes from the rural areas with (93.1%) participation by women. The regional poor farmers depend on dairy as their major income. With COVID-19 lockdowns it has affected the majority of the dairy dependent farmers with the following ways.

Problems faced :-

(1) co-operatives procuring 40% of rural milk ~~real~~ fixes prices based on fat-content rather than volume of milk procured.

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due to lockdown normal household demanding milk reduced resulting in more dependency on co-operatives.

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Results in reduced income for farmers.

(2) No determination of estimates on cost of production and minimum support price for milk (MSRP)

(3) Closure of shops leads to more demand to the fodder and feed for livestock animals.

(4) Decreased veterinary services to treat disease during lockdown

All these factors led to more problems to farmers with decreased milk procurement.

WAY FORWARD :

(1) Govt has to set up a stable market ignoring the remunerative pricing in co-operatives

(2) Increase supply of milk to household through online e-commerce sites

(3) Increasing veterinary mobile hospital services to rural areas with more cattle

(4) providing loans to milk producing farmers for their development

(5) Govt schemes such as National Dairy development Programme (NDDP) for development of infrastructure has to be augmented.

(6) Dairy processing and Infrastructure development fund has to be used effectively in overcoming these setbacks during lockdown.

With development and increased demand and supply using e-commerce sites milk procuring and supply has also to be included which would help us to overcome the major setback during lockdown.