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GS-III: AGRICULTURE

Previous Year Questions

UPSC Mains 2013 – 2024

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Agriculture

01. Major Crops – Cropping Patterns in Various Parts of the Country

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Agriculture)	Year	Marks
Crop Diversification & Cropping Patterns	What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilize the yield of the crop in the system?	2017	15
	What is the present challenges before crop diversification? How do emerging technologies provide an opportunity for crop diversification?	2021	15
	Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions.	2023	15
	How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption.	2018	15
	What are the major factors responsible for making rice-wheat system a success? In spite of this success how has this system become bane in India?	2020	15
	What is allelopathy? Discuss its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture.	2016	12.5
Millets, Horticulture & Organic Farming	Explain the role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India.	2024	10
	Assess the role of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers?	2018	15
	Sikkim is the first 'Organic State' in India. What are the ecological and economical benefits of Organic State?	2018	10
Integrated Farming System & Small Farmer Sustainability	How far is the Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production?	2019	10
	What is Integrated Farming System ? How is it helpful to small and marginal farmers in India ?	2022	15

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02. Different Types of Irrigation and Irrigation Systems

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Agriculture)	Year	Marks
Irrigation Challenges & Efficient Management	Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under depleting scenario.	2020	**15**
	What are the major challenges faced by Indian irrigation system in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management.	2024	**15**
Micro-Irrigation & Water-Use Efficiency	How and to what extent would micro-irrigation help in solving India's water crisis?	2021	**10**
	What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency.	2016	**12.5**
Water Storage, Conservation & Watershed Development	Elaborate on the impact of the National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas.	2019	**10**
	What are the salient features of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan launches by the Government of India for water conservation and water security?	2020	**10**

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03. Storage, Transport and Marketing of Agricultural Produce and Issues and Related Constraints

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Agriculture)	Year	Marks
APMC Reforms, Transport & Marketing Bottlenecks	There is also a point of view that agriculture produce market committees (APMCs) set up under the state acts have not only impeded the development of agriculture but also have been the cause of food inflation in India. Critically examine.	2014	12.5
	What are the main bottlenecks in upstream and downstream process of marketing of agricultural products in India ?	2022	15
	What are the main constraints in transport and marketing of agricultural produce in India?	2020	10
Supermarkets, Supply Chain & Modern Agri-Retail	Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables and food items. How do they eliminate number of intermediaries?	2018	10

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04. E-Technology in the Aid of Farmers

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Agriculture)	Year	Marks
E-Technology in Agriculture: Production, Credit & Farm Income	How does e-Technology help farmers in production and marketing of agricultural produce? Explain it.	2023	10
	"In the villages itself no form of credit organization will be suitable except the cooperative society". All India Rural Credit Survey. Discuss this statement in the background of agricultural finance in India. What constraints and challenges do financial institutions supplying agricultural finance face? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients?	2014	12.5
	How can the 'Digital India' programme help farmers to improve farm productivity and income? What steps has the Government taken in this regards?	2015	12.5

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05. Issues Related to Direct and Indirect Farm Subsidies and MSP; PDS (Objectives, Functioning, Limitations, Revamping, Issues of Buffer Stocks & Food Security), Technology Missions

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Agriculture)	Year	Marks
Agricultural Subsidies, MSP, Crop Insurance & DBT	In what way could replacement of price subsidy with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) change the scenario of subsidies in India? Discuss.	2015	12.5
	What are the different types of agriculture subsidies given to farmers at the national and state levels? Critically analyze the agriculture subsidy regime with the reference to the distortions created by it.	2013	10
	What are the direct and indirect subsidies provided to farm sector in India? Discuss the issues raised by the World Trade Organization(WTO) in relation to agricultural subsidies.	2023	15
	Given the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	2016	12.5
	What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap?	2018	10
	How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers?	2017	15
PDS, Buffer Stocks, Food Security & Agricultural Revolutions	Elucidate the importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices in India. What are the challenges associated with the storage of buffer stock? Discuss.	2024	15
	Food security bill is expected to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Critically discuss various apprehensions in its effective implementation along with the concerns it has generated in WTO.	2013	10
	What are the major challenges of Public Distribution System (PDS) in India ? How can it be made effective and transparent ?	2022	10
	What are the reformative steps taken by the government to make food grain distribution system more effective?	2019	15
	What are the salient features of the National Food Security Act, 2013? How has the Food Security Bill helped in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in India?	2021	15
	Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How these revolutions have helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India?	2017	10

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06. Economics of Animal-Rearing

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Agriculture)	Year	Marks
Livestock Rearing, Non- Farm Income & Rural Employment	Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote this sectors in India	2015	**12.5**

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07. Land Reforms in India

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Agriculture)	Year	Marks
Land Reforms: Role, Implementation & Poverty Alleviation	Establish the relationship between land reform, agriculture productivity and elimination of poverty in Indian Economy. Discussion the difficulty in designing and implementation of the agriculture friendly land reforms in India.	2013	**10**
	Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India.	2016	**12.5**
	How did land reforms in some parts of the country help to improve the socio-economic conditions of marginal and small farmers?	2021	**10**
	State the objectives and measures of land reforms in India. Discuss how land ceiling policy on landholding can be considered as an effective reform under economic criteria.	2023	**10**
	What were the factors responsible for the successful implementation of land reforms in some parts of the country? Elaborate.	2024	**10**
Land Acquisition Act, Contract Farming & Land Leasing	The right to fair compensation and transparency land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement act, 2013 has come into effect from 1 January 2014. What implication would it have on industrialisation and agriculture in India?	2014	**12.5**
	In view of the declining average size of land holdings in India which has made agriculture non-viable for a majority of farmers, should contract farming and land leasing be promoted in agriculture? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.	2015	**12.5**