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ForumIAS

GS Advanced Program 2023

Generic Booklet

Test Name/Code/No. : 693027

Name			
Email ID.			
Roll No.			
Mobile No.		Date	

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes

Instructions to Candidates -

- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard – https://noticeboard.forumias.com/gsap-2023/

Important –

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
- To upload the Answer Copies please visit to "My Course" section on – https://academy.forumias.com/
- Only those copies will be evaluated which will be submitted before the next class.

Q. No.	Grade/Score
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Overall Grade/Score	

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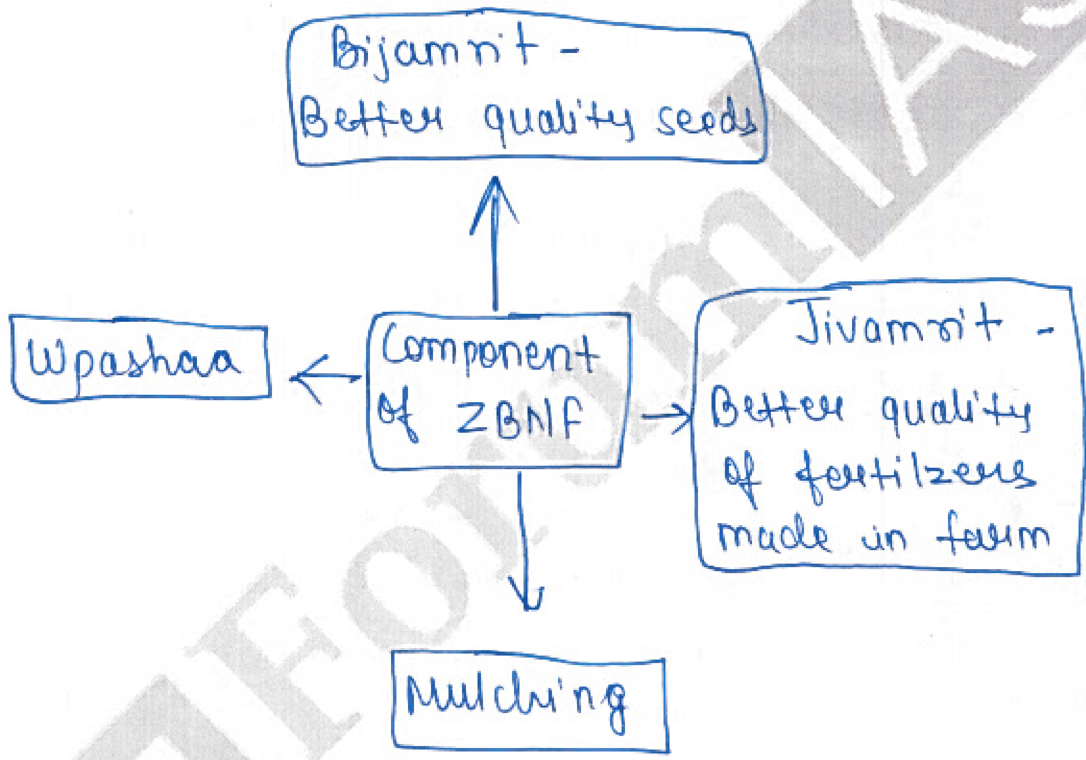
Q.1) Zero budget natural farming was introduced by Subash Palekar to prodmote indeginous method of farming.



Advantages of zero- budget Natural Farming

① Increase farm income : Due to low cost, farmers will be able to make more profit.

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② Higher yield : Study has suggested that due to the use of natural resources, farmers are able to treat soil well, which has resulted in more produce.

③ Soil Health : It checks soil erosion and effects of climate change on soil.

Limitations of ZBNF

① Less produce : Due to available of scarce resources, it is difficult to practice on large areas yet.

② Non- awareness : Farmers need to be trained on this to make it possible

③ Global practices : Example of Sri lanka where it has negative impact.

Thus, government should intervene and provide more encouragement to such practices.

Overall Grading (√)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.2) Organic farming started in late 1970s in India. Recently, it has gained prominance due to various factors.

Benefits of Organic farming

① Elimination of fertilizers: This method of farming leads to very less use of fertilizers which is beneficial for soil health.

② Availability: These organic produce can be prepared on the field of production itself, which reduces the dependency on third party.

③ Changing food habit: As the produced food ~~grain~~ crops are of higher quality, it enables the consumer to have better food option and thus a healthy life.

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Challenges in Organic farming

① **Higher Cost** : The Cost of growing, overall, remains very high as compared to traditional fertilizer farming.

② **Non-awareness** : Many of the farmers in Eastern part is still not much aware thus using fertilizer farming only.

③ **Lower Shelf life** : Most of the produce, especially fruits and vegetable, donot survive for longer days.

Thus, government through Prakritik Kheti Yojana tries to raise awareness and provide incentives to promote organic farming.

Overall Grading (√)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.3) Recently, Andhra Pradesh has rejoined PM fasal Bima Yojana.

State of Agricultural Insurance Sector

① Low penetration: Survey indicates that total farm insurance is less than 10 per cent in India.

② State support: Though central government tries to encourage insurance, state government is unable to match the pace

③ High Cost: The overall cost of premium is high considering the poor household condition of rural areas.

The government, to overcome the challenges, came up with PM fasal Bima Yojana in 2017.

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Key Provisions of the scheme

① More coverage : It not only provides Harvest coverage but post harvest coverage too

② Extended coverage : The number of crops have also increased which now include some of the oil seeds as well.

③ Less premium burden : The farmers need to pay between 1.5 per cent to 5 per cent, based on the crops.

Thus, PM fasal bima yojana is a right step towards promoting insurance in agriculture which will for sure reap benefit in near feature.

Overall Grading (√)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.4) Green GDP is the concept of considering the effect of growth on the environment in the calculation of overall GDP of a nation.

Benefit of calculating Green GDP

① Sustainable Growth: This helps in attaining growth which is more focused on having future generation as consideration.

② 'Green' policy: It will lead to the decisions which are more in line ~~who~~ with the need of greener environment.

③ Resilient Infrastructure: It will also promote building infrastructures which are more sustainable to environmental problems

Drawback of Green GDP

① No clear defination - Experts are of the opinion that no government or international agencies defines the term properly.

② Guidelines - It is also felt that proper guidelines are not present which leads to more chaos than initiatives toward green environment.

③ Less efforts from developed world - These nations still throw the burden on developing nations and provide little incentives for it.

Thus, the intergovernmental body should focus on having more resilient focus on attaining better sustainable growth.

Overall Grading (√)

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Q.5) TRIPS was introduced in the year 1995 along with WTO. Aim of TRIPs was to have a global guidelines regarding trade practices among the member nations.

The TRIPs guidelines was implemented Immediately in 1995 in developed world while developing nations were given a timeline of 10 years to regulate their trade practices.

In line with this, government of India also introduced Indian Patent (Amendment) Act, 2005 which brough product patent as a measure along with existing process patent.

$\boxed{\text{Provisions of TRIPS}}$

(1) Product patent : TRIPS provides

for product patent for food, medicines and drugs.

② Process Patent - Apart from product patent items, all other have process patent provisions

③ Regulation in Trade practices - These provisions are to be practiced by both developing as well as developed countries.

④ Awareness generation - It aims to sensitize the companies to not indulge in unfair trade practices

Steps by developing countries

① Amendment of laws - Like India, did in 2005 and brought product patent under the purview of Patent Act.

② Increased competition - Due to fresh regulations, competition among firms in developing world increased.

③ Compliance burden - Due to non-availability of proper records and data, companies find it difficult to follow the guidelines.

④ More pressure from developed world - which can be seen ~~the~~ impacting relations between nations.

Thus, the TRIPS regulations introduced in 1995, though provides for fair play, stills suffers from huge compliance inefficiencies and needs certain reforms in order to have more global impact.

Overall Grading (√)

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Q.6) Fertilizer industry is one of the major component of Agriculture sector. It is used extensively in Indian Agriculture, especially after Green Revolution.

Issues in fertilizer Sectors

① Overdependence on Urea - from among all the available fertilizers, urea is being used the most due to its abundence in availability, cheap price due to government subsidy.

② Heavy governmental regulation - Government has control over production, distribution/transportation, and import through canalization - making the regulation cumbersome.

③ Import dependency - Apart from urea, India nearly imports 50-60% of its ~~urea~~ fertilizer need from

Other countries. This not only leads to increase in price but also discourages usage of other fertilizers.

④ Overuse of fertilizers - Due to heavy subsidy, increase production and thus income generation, farmers tends to use the fertilizers much in quantity, affecting soil health too.

⑤ Introduction of alternatives - Fertilizer sector also suffers due to other farming techniques like organic farming or zero - budget natural farming.

⑥ Huge subsidy burden - Fertilizers companies are having nearly one lakh crore rupees of subsidy burden on them which government is deferring the payment due to other fiscal burden.

Measures for reforms

① Limit the subsidy : Government should limit the subsidy provided based on land holding.

② Research & Development in fertilizers- More focus should be given on domestic production so that import burden could be reduced.

③ Easing the regulations - Government should try to de-regulate the fertilizers industry in order to promote innovations.

Thus, fertilizer sector suffers from huge distress and the need of the hour is to bring the much needed reforms.

Overall Grading (√)

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Q.7) GDP is a measure primarily used as a yardstick to gauge the growth of an economy. In 2015, a new series was announced to calculate India's GDP by upgrading the methodology with new data sources to meet UN standards.

Differences between old & new methodology

① Change in Base Year

Pre- 2015 : 2004-05

Post- 2015 : 2011-12

Change of base year to calculate GDP is done in line with the global exercise to capture economic information accurately.

② Change in data used to measure manufacturing sector growth

Pre-2015: Evaluated using data from IIP and Annual Survey of Industries, which comprises over 2 lakh factories

Post-2015: Annual accounts of companies submitted with Ministry of Corporate Affairs are evaluated now which comprises nearly five lakh companies.

③ GDP at factor cost replaced by GDP at market price - This includes not only the cost of production but also product subsidies & taxes.

④ Calculation of labour income - Concept of "effective labour input" is brought in which gives weights based on nature of employment.

⑤ Change in the way value addition in agriculture was captured - value addition is taken beyond farm produce - livestock data is now critical.

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⑥ Capturing income generated by financial sector – The coverage of financial sector has been expanded by including stock brokers, stock exchanges, asset management companies, mutual funds and pension funds, as well as the regulatory bodies.

Thus, the new method is statistically more robust since it estimates more indicators such as consumption, employment, and the performance of enterprises, and incorporates factors that are more responsive to current changes.

Overall Grading (√)

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