

GS Advanced Program 2023

Generic Booklet

Test Name/Code/No. : ...GSAP-28/693028

Name			
Email ID.			
Roll No.			
Mobile No.		Date	8/12/2022

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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Russia-Ukraine crisis has highlighted the importance of food security in the wake of high input cost and dwindling supply.

Reason behind increasing Agricultural exports for India

- (i) Providing export market linkage to farmers over India
- (ii) Subsidized energy, fertilizers provided by the government
ex: Despite fertilizer shortage, government subsidized price of Urea.
- (iii) Cash support to farmers to tide over inflation-crisis.
- (iv) New demand from different parts of the world ex: Egypt, Indonesia

Steps to shield Agricultural exports from crisis

- (I) Stabilizing the price of input material
i.e fertilizers, seeds, pesticide.
- (II) Subsidizing energy for farmers
ex: Diesel Subsidy
- (III) Improving productivity through
addressing bottlenecks in upstream and
downstream processes of agricultural
marketing
- (IV) Agricultural produce should find Key
support in various free trade agreements.

To realize the dream
of doubling farmer's income, agricultural
export improvement is mandatory. Ashok
Daluai and Surejt Bhalla committee recommendation
should be implemented.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

2016-17 witnessed series of farm loan waivers which were touted as the solution for all the agricultural problem.

Reasons behind farm loan waivers

- I. To rescue farmers from debt-trap.
- II. To offset impact of bad monsoon, supply-demand mismatch on farmers financial health.
- III. Pushing new credit cycle in agriculture which can prove to be virtuous.
- IV. Improving rural economy and health of farm-allied sector.
- V. More than 40% of Indian population is into agriculture. It improves their social parameters.

Limitations of farm loan waivers

- ① Benefit only few land holding farmers.

⑫ Doesn't allow farmer or the government to address loopholes in farming techniques

⑬ Loans taken from formal banking institutions are waived off. Most farmers are dependent on informal credit from moneylenders, family.

⑭ It incentivizes farming with the help of credit. Self-sustaining farming practices are discouraged.

⑮ Landless labours ^{and tenants} are ignored.

Way Forward

- State level farmer commission (MS Swaminathan committee)
- Farming education and education
- Technology Upgrade
- Contract Farming
- Investment in research, HYV

Farm loan waivers neither solve agricultural problems and are burden on fiscal health. It should be used as last stop measure.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

India is the largest producer of pulses in the world.

Pulses are a cheap source of protein and act as a store of nutritional value.

Role of Pulses in Food and Nutritional Security

- ① Pulses have longer shelf life. They can be stocked for longer period to ensure food security and market stabilization.
- ② Pulses have more than double the protein of cereals which can improve nutritional parameters such as stunting and wasting.
- ③ Cultivation of Pulses is possible in tough climatic condition.
- ④ Pulses are nitrogen fixing crops. It can be used in sustainable farming practices such as crop rotation.

- ⑤ Pulses are helpful in carbon sequestration and emit less greenhouse gases.

Issues with Pulse Production

- ① High input cost disincentivizes farmers
- ② Wastage during monsoon and after production.
- ③ Prices highly dependent upon demand.

Way Forward

- I. Subsidizing Input Cost.
- II. Research to bring HYV to pulses
- III. Increasing consumption of pulses in PDS, mid day meal, subsidized canteens.
- IV. Awareness among rural population to include pulses in the diet of women and children.
- V. Dharwad Committee - PDS Reforms

Overall Grading (✓)

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

The Global Hunger Index, 2022 highlighted the prevalent nutritional insecurity among world's population and Global South in particular.

Biofortification refers to the process of adding micronutrients to the food grain. It is touted as one of the solution for addressing nutritional insecurity.

Benefits of Biofortification of Millets

- ① Millets are climate resilient and have short growing season. By Biofortification we can ensure food security with nutrient security.
- ② Micronutrients added can complement nutrients present in millet and can make it a whole diet.
- ③ Bio-fortified millets can be made easily available and accessible to

rural population.

- (iv) It is more practical economically rather than providing variety of nutritious crop produce

Issues with Bio-fortification of Millets.

I. It cannot replace the need for balanced diet.

II. Large section of population does not consume millet. Behavioural

Change is needed to change food habits.

Way Forward

- Biofortification of Millets along with other food grain
- Promotion of Millet as nutritious food
- Subsidizing millet cultivation.
- High yield variety for millet production

2023 has been declared as year of millets. Bio-fortified millets along with balanced diet needs to be promoted.

Overall Grading (✓)

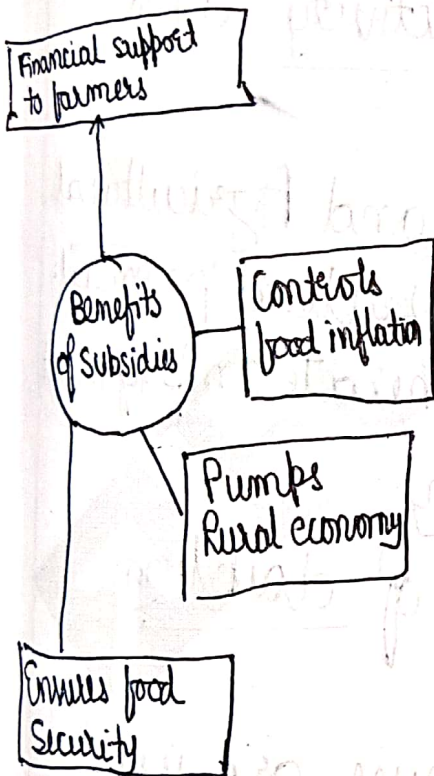
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India has faced many export restrictions by WTO due to the nature of subsidy provided to agriculture sector.

As recommended by Shanta Kumar committee, there is a need to rationalize subsidies



Limitations of Subsidies

- (i). Distorts demand supply equilibrium
- (ii). Harms export of agricultural produce
- (iii). Does not allow stakeholders to address gaps in technique, knowledge
- (iv). Promotes cultivation of few selected non-environment friendly crops ex: Rice, wheat

Need for Repurposing Agricultural Support

- ① More than 40% of Indian population is dependent on agriculture. Subsidies only bring marginal change, Investment in Capital Infrastructure for agriculture will bring enormous change.
- ② Despite having largest fertile area in the world, India's agriculture export is low ($< 3\%$). Repurposing agricultural support will boost productivity and yield.
- ③ Food Processing Industry and Agricultural marketing sector have unrealized potential. They can add value, generate employment and improve marketability.
- ④ To realize the dream of doubling farmer's income.
- ⑤ To ~~the~~ cater to the ever growing nutritional need for young population.

Way Forward

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- (I) Greater Private Sector Participation
 - (II) EXIM Norms
 - (III) Upgradation of Silos
 - (IV) Negotiable Warehouse receipts
 - (V) Rationalizing Subsidies
 - (VI) Procurement handover to state
 - (VII) Shifting to green and amber box subsidies to improve trade of agricultural produce.
 - (VIII) Investments in agricultural marketing infrastructure.
 - (IX) One district - one produce focus
- Ashok Dalwai Committee
- Shamsh Kumar Committee
- Niti Aayog Report

Indian agriculture suffers from multitude of problems which can only be solved by repurposing agricultural support to investment in research, machinery, infrastructure.

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Q.6)

Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) are formed by state governments to act as market for agricultural produce.

Purpose of APMC

- (i) Safeguard farmers and give them easy access to markets
- (ii) Storage facilities
- (iii) Local arrangements for farmers
- (iv) Controlling price fluctuations.

Issues with APMC

- (i) Monopolization of market
- (ii) Cartelization by few traders and large farmers
- (iii) Entry barriers
- (iv) Binds the farmer to a particular local market

Challenges faced due to APMC

- (i) Farmer doesn't get full price-realization.
- (ii) Dis-incentivizes small and marginal farmers.
- (iii) Entry barrier to private players which can bring necessary investment into agriculture.
- (iv) Binds the farmer to a locality.
- (v) Leakage of money due to mismanagement and corruption.
- (vi) Many APMC have not built storage facilities that leads to huge wastage and loss.

Reforms ~~to~~ Undertaken to address this issue

- (i) Many states such as Bihar have abolished APMCs

⑪ Model APMC act passed by Central government.

⑫ Incentivizing private sector participation in agriculture.

⑬ Promotion of contract farming

⑭ Now repealed, farm laws abolished monopoly of intermediaries

⑮ Reducing taxes and commission.

Way Forward

① States legislating and regulating APMC strictly

② Removing monopoly, increasing private sector participation.

multiple of problems Indian agriculture faces demand supply mismatch. APMC Reforms are the need of the hour to address issues in agri.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

The Government formed a committee to look into protestors demand for legalizing MSP.

Benefits of Legalizing MSP

- (i) It will provide much needed financial support to farmers and agricultural economy.
- (ii) It will provide necessary safeguard to farmer while in times of crisis.
- (iii) It can help control crops in short supply.
- (iv) It will boost Public Distribution System.
- (v) It can check price volatility.
- (vi) Boost rural economy.
- (vii) It can ensure that farmer can get credit before sowing crop.

Limitations of legalizing MSP

1. Distorts supply chain equilibrium
2. Puts financial burden on exchequer, deteriorates fiscal health.
3. Negative effect on small and marginal farmers.
4. May disincentivize private players from entering the market due to high cost of procurement
5. It may burden Public Distribution System and Food Silos
6. Without proper storage, there'll be huge wastage of resources.
7. Negatively impacts agricultural exports due to restrictions by WTO.

Legalizing MSP is no solution for India's agricultural troubles. Government doesn't have the capacity to invest large amount into agriculture and procurement

Way Forward

- (i) Increase in MSP by including risk and social factor as suggested by Arvind Pangariya committee
- (ii) Rationalizing subsidies, promoting agricultural exports.
- (iii) Increased private sector participation at all levels of agriculture.

India's agriculture troubles are deep rooted. MSP was a temporary solution for such troubles. Legalizing MSP will heavily impact India's fiscal health.

Overall Grading (✓)

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