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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



24th February, 2024

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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	WHY IS FARMING NOT REMUNERATIVE IN INDIA?
2.	PRELIMS POINTERS

WHY IS FARMING NOT REMUNERATIVE IN INDIA?

SOURCE: [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

TAG: GS Paper III- *Agriculture and issues related to it, Agricultural Technology.*

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

Mains (2013)

Q. Establish relationships between land reforms, agricultural productivity and elimination of poverty in the Indian economy. Discuss the difficulties in designing and implementation of agriculture – friendly land reforms in India.

(150 words)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ *In rural India, the plight of farmers remains a pressing concern, underscored by stark realities. With over **70% of the population** engaged in agriculture, the sector's contribution to the nation's GDP has dwindled from over **50% at independence to less than 18% today.***
- ❖ *This decline in economic significance mirrors the challenges faced by farmers, including **shrinking land holdings, rising debt burdens, and unfavourable terms of trade.** As India grapples with the complexities of agrarian distress, addressing the plight of its farmers emerges as a critical imperative for sustainable development.*

STATE OF FARMING IN INDIA:

- ❖ **Economic Disproportion:**
 - ☛ Despite its large workforce, agriculture now contributes less than 18% to India's GDP, highlighting its **disproportionate economic burden.**
- ❖ **Agrarian Crisis:**
 - ☛ India faces a deep-rooted crisis with **declining farm incomes, rising indebtedness, and shrinking land holdings, particularly affecting small and marginal farmers.**
- ❖ **Imbalanced Trade Terms:**
 - ☛ Farmers struggle with rising input costs and stagnant or declining prices for their produce, leading to **reduced purchasing power and increased debt.**
- ❖ **Regional Disparities:**
 - ☛ Variations in productivity and income exist among states due to factors like land fertility, irrigation access, market reach, and government support.

REASONS FOR FARMING BEING UNREMUNERATIVE IN INDIA:

- ❖ **Input Costs and Price Volatility:**
 - ☛ Farmers often face challenges related to input costs such as **seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation.**
 - ☛ Fluctuations in input costs combined with price volatility for agricultural commodities make it difficult for farmers to predict and manage their expenses effectively.



- The **NSSO's Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households** reported that 50% of all farm households in India were indebted as of **2019**.

❖ **Lack of Access to Credit and Financial Services:**

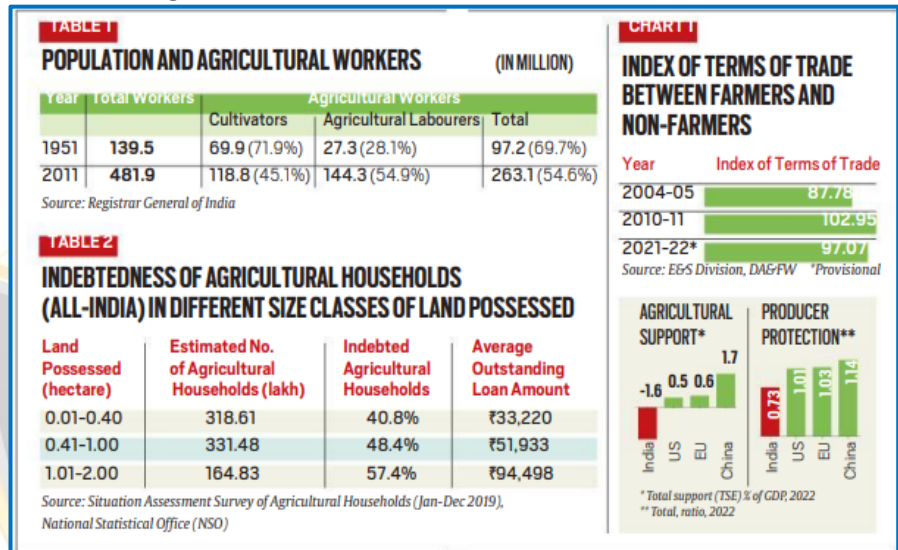
- Many small and marginal farmers in India struggle to access formal credit and financial services.
- According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, **total agricultural credit disbursed by banks and financial institutions in India stood at Rs. 13.49 lakh crore as of March 2021**.
- As a result, they often rely on informal sources of credit that come with high interest rates, leading to indebtedness and financial vulnerability.

❖ **Fragmented Land Holdings:**

- India's agrarian landscape is characterized by fragmented land holdings, with a large proportion of farmers owning small plots of land.

❖ **Inadequate Infrastructure and Market Linkages:**

- Poor infrastructure, including **inadequate storage facilities, transportation networks, and market linkages**, results in post-harvest losses and restricts farmers' access to markets.
- According to the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**, the total budget allocation for agricultural and allied sectors in India for the **fiscal year 2022-23 was Rs.1,76,804 crore**.



❖ **Climate Change and Environmental Degradation:**

- Climate change-related factors such as **erratic weather patterns, droughts, floods, and pest infestations** pose significant challenges to agricultural productivity in India.
- Moreover, **unsustainable agricultural practices** contribute to environmental degradation, further exacerbating the vulnerability of farmers.

❖ **Dependence on Monsoon:**

- Variability in monsoon patterns and the **increasing frequency of extreme weather events** due to climate change pose significant risks to rain fed agriculture, leading to crop failures and income losses for farmers.

❖ **Low Productivity and Technological Lag:**

- Limited access to modern farming techniques, **inadequate extension services**, and the slow adoption of technology contribute to the overall stagnation in agricultural productivity.

❖ **Policy Distortions and Market Imperfections:**

- Government policies, including procurement policies, **trade restrictions**, and subsidies, often distort market signals and **create inefficiencies in agricultural markets**.
- These distortions can lead to **price distortions, market monopolies, and unequal distribution of benefits** among farmers.

❖ **Limited Diversification and Value Addition:**



- The predominant focus on traditional crops and monoculture farming practices **limits opportunities for diversification** and value addition in Indian agriculture.
- Lack of access to markets for high-value crops and non-farm activities **restricts income-generating opportunities for farmers.**

WAY FORWARD:

- ❖ **Reforming Support Mechanisms:**
 - Modernize subsidies to align with global standards for adequate farmer assistance. **OECD data** underscores **India's low ranking in producer protection**, necessitating comprehensive support reforms.
- ❖ **Economic Diversification Initiatives:**
 - Encourage diversification beyond traditional crops to boost income potential. **Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)** research highlights diversified farming's role in enhancing resilience and income stability.
- ❖ **Strengthening Market Infrastructure:**
 - Invest in market infrastructure and digital platforms for direct market access. **World Bank** studies indicate **improved market access leads to higher farmer incomes.**
- ❖ **Technology Adoption for Productivity Gains:**
 - Embrace agricultural technology for productivity enhancement and post-harvest loss reduction. **IFPRI** research demonstrates technology adoption's positive impact on farmer income.
- ❖ **Expanding Financial Inclusion:**
 - Provide formal credit and insurance access to mitigate income risks. **World Bank reports suggest financial inclusion can increase agricultural productivity and raise farmer incomes by up to 20%.**
- ❖ **Empowering Farmer Entrepreneurship:**
 - Promote entrepreneurship and skill development for new income opportunities. **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** data shows training programs have led to higher incomes for farmer entrepreneurs globally.
- ❖ **Optimizing Government Schemes:**
 - Streamline scheme implementation for efficient resource allocation. **NITI Aayog** studies indicate targeted interventions can significantly improve farmer income levels.



PRELIMS POINTERS:

24th February, 2024

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
<p>ADITYA-L1's PAPA PAYLOAD</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) reported recently, that the Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA) payload onboard the Aditya-L1 has successfully detected the impact of coronal mass ejections (CMEs). <p>FUNCTIONALITY OF PAPA PAYLOAD:</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ PAPA serves as an energy and mass analyser designed for in-situ measurements of solar wind electrons and ions in the low energy range. ❖ The sensors are equipped to measure the direction of arrival of solar wind particles. <p>Sensor Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Solar Wind Electron Energy Probe (SWEEP): Measures electrons in the energy range of 10 eV to 3 keV. ❖ Solar Wind Ion Composition Analyser (SWICAR): Measures ions in the energy range of 10 eV to 25 keV and mass range of 1-60 amu. <div data-bbox="778 730 1481 1070" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>CORONAL MASS EJECTIONS (CMES):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) are explosive releases of solar material from the Sun's corona, traveling at high speeds. ❖ They can disrupt space weather, causing geomagnetic storms and impacting Earth's magnetosphere and technology. ❖ Understanding CMEs is crucial for space weather forecasting and protecting satellites, communication systems, and power grids from their effects.
<p>NB8 DELEGATION'S MESSAGE AT RAISINA DIALOGUE</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The NB8 delegation at Raisina Dialogue underscores trust, cooperation amid global challenges, addressing Russia's aggression, and deepening partnerships with India. <p>WHAT IS NORDIC BALTIC (NB) 8?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Origin: First meeting in 1990, evolved in 2000. ❖ Member Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Comprises five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, and three Baltic states: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. ❖ Shared Ties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Based on historical, cultural, and geographical connections, fostering collaboration in politics, economics, trade, security, and culture. ❖ Regional Cooperation Format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ NB8 is a cooperation format that unites Nordic countries and Baltic States. ☛ Includes EU/NATO members and non-members, fostering integration.



- ☛ Holds regular meetings with **third countries, like the US and UK.**
- ☛ Annual coordinator country **focuses on security, sustainability, and societal cohesion.**



GUINEA WORM DISEASE

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The significant **decline in Guinea worm disease cases** and the **reliance on basic public health principles** underscore a monumental achievement in global health.*

DRACUNCULIASIS (GUINEA WORM DISEASE):

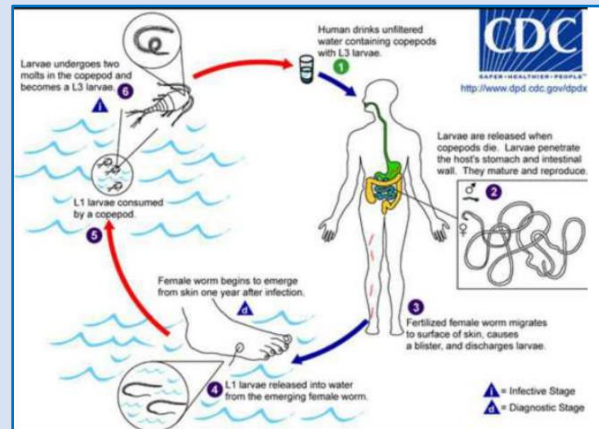
- ❖ Caused by the **parasitic worm 'Dracunculus medinensis'.**
- ❖ Spread through **drinking water contaminated with Guinea worm larvae.**
- ❖ Primarily affects impoverished **communities in Africa** lacking access to **safe drinking water.**

TRANSMISSION AND LIFE CYCLE:

- ❖ Ingestion of **copepods** containing **Guinea worm larvae.**
- ❖ **Larvae** penetrate the **host's stomach and intestinal wall, then migrate to connective tissues.**
- ❖ After mating, **female worms** emerge from the skin, releasing larvae into water sources upon contact.

SYMPTOMS AND COMPLICATIONS:

- ❖ Symptoms typically appear a **year after infection**, including **fever, swelling, and painful blisters.**
- ❖ **Adult worms**, up to 1 meter long, cause excruciating pain upon emergence.
- ❖ **Secondary bacterial infections** can lead to **prolonged disability and joint damage.**



TREATMENT AND PREVENTION:

- ❖ **No specific drug treatment or vaccine available.**
- ❖ Worm extraction is slow and painful, requiring **winding around gauze or sticks.**
- ❖ Prevention focuses on **filtering drinking water, cooking aquatic animals thoroughly, and avoiding water contact for infected individuals.**

GLOBAL ERADICATION EFFORTS:

- ❖ **Guinea Worm Eradication Program (GWEP)** aims to eliminate the disease.
- ❖ Strategies include **health education, water treatment, and providing safe water sources.**
- ❖ Significant progress made, with **only 15 human cases** reported in **2021.**

CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK:

- ❖ Persistent challenges include **animal reservoirs and socio-political factors.**



AFRICA'S DONKEY

- ❖ **Eradication** requires continued global cooperation and investment in public health infrastructure.
- ❖ **Success in Guinea worm eradication** would mark a significant milestone in the fight against neglected tropical diseases.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Governments are taking action to curb donkey skin exports to China due to the detrimental impact of the trade on African donkey population.*

DONKEY SLAUGHTER FOR GELATIN EXTRACTION:

- ❖ Chinese companies slaughtering millions of **African donkeys for gelatin extraction.**
- ❖ Unregulated trade leading to significant decline in African donkey populations.
- ❖ African Union's **continent wide ban on donkey skin exports** to aid population recovery.
- ❖ Heavy reliance on donkeys for **transportation and agriculture** in African rural households.



ABOUT DONKEY:

- ❖ They are **sturdy mammals** with **long ears**, a **short mane**, and **coats of fur** in various colours.
- ❖ They possess **hard, durable hooves** adapted for walking and carrying heavy loads across different terrains.
- ❖ Known for their **intelligence and resilience**, donkeys form **strong social bonds** and have been valued historically for **agricultural work and transportation.**
- ❖ Donkeys have a **longer gestation period compared to horses**, typically giving birth to a **single foal** after **11 to 14 months.**

ABOUT GELATIN:

- ❖ **Composition:** Gelatin, **derived from animal collagen like cow hides and pigskins**, is processed into a **gel-like substance after hydrolysis.**
- ❖ **Versatile Use:** Widely employed in foods like **candies and desserts**, gelatin acts as a gelling agent, stabilizer, and thickener, lending unique textures.
- ❖ **Medical Applications:** Gelatin is utilized in **pharmaceuticals for encapsulating drugs and supplements**, aiding in rapid digestion and drug delivery.
- ❖ **Photography:** In photography, **gelatin coats light-sensitive materials**, enabling image capture and precise development control.
- ❖ **Industrial Uses:** Gelatin's properties extend to cosmetics, adhesives, and coatings, where it serves as an **emulsifier, film-former, and binding agent.**

MEDARAM JATARA FESTIVAL

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended greetings on the start of the tribal festival, **Sammakka - Sarakka Medaram Jatara**, in **Telangana.***

SAMMAKKA SARALAMMA JATARA:

- ❖ A **tribal festival** in **Telangana**, India honoring goddesses **Sammakka and Saralamma.**
- ❖ Celebrated in **Medaram, Mulugu district**, attracting millions of devotees, second only to **Kumbha Mela.**

LEGEND OF SAMMAKKA:



- ❖ Born amidst tigers, **Sammakka** was adopted by tribal leaders and **raised as a chieftain**.
- ❖ Married to **Pagididda Raju, a Kakatiya feudatory tribal chief**, she became the savior of the region's tribals.

JAMPANNA VAGU:

- ❖ A **tributary to River Godavari** named after **Jampanna, son of Sammakka**, who died fighting against the **Kakatiyan Army**.
- ❖ The **red-colored water** symbolizes his sacrifice, believed to induce courage into the souls of the tribals.
- ❖ The **Jampanna Vagu bridge** stands as a testament to this historic legend.

