

It is time to provide a balance between India's agricultural exports and environmental aspects for a sustainable agriculture. Explain (200 words).

India aims to double agricultural exports from then \$30 billion in 2018 to \$60 billion in 2022 through Agri Export Policy of 2018. This fiscal year the agri export reached around \$41 billion. This also envisage some environmental impacts.

It is high time that India should focus on environmental impacts of exporting more and encourage sustainable agriculture. The following are some of the impacts :-

- Rice being around 21% of export highly depends on irrigation and topography. It is assumed that India is exporting around 35.5 billion cubic meters of virtual water through it.
- Similarly sugarcane for sugar exporting exports around 15 billion cubic meters of virtual water.
- Further more 18% of Greenhouse gases are from rice cultivation.
- Depletion of ground water due to pump irrigation with per capita water availability around 1500 cubic meters.
- In turn it increases the salinity of ground water.
- Trawlers have wiped almost much of resources in the ocean.

The reason for imbalance ~~is~~ between agricultural export increase and unsustainable environment

- Free electricity for irrigation
- Subsidized fertilizers
- Subsidy to increase export of agriproducts

Balancing measures : To reduce the impacts of environment government could

- encourage water efficient irrigation methods like micro irrigation
- Direct Seeding method
- Alternate wetting drying method
- partially using of natural fertilizers
- Cage fishing and controlled environment fish farming

Further more reviewing procurement rates such as MSP and FRP could increase the exports.

Thus these approaches will ensure that India's exports in agriculture are doubled by 2022 and stay environmentally sustainable in long run.