

Q. Farmers are the cornerstone of the food security and they should deserve the freedom to market their produce at a place of their choice. Discuss (250 words), 15 marks.

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. Many lives are dependent on the agriculture & allied sector employment activities. Food Requirement is supported by the Farming community. But, the Farmers are not get adequate or fair prices in Farming. Natural calamity such as Drought, Flood will destroy the crop production. Overcoming Pests also a another challenge. and finally, main issues arises while marketing their agricultural produce by getting loses.

Issues with Agricultural Produce marketing :

1. Farming is under state subject. States enacted their own Agricultural produce marketing committee acts (APMC). It put under various restrictions on farmers, such as they have to sell their produce only under registered trader in regulated APMC. This would incur loss.
2. APMCs are fragmented structure. Few place there is inflation on prices. Other places, there surplus of products. So not well interconnected APMC will cause distress

3. And also there is insufficient APMCs. This leads to force farmers to sell their produce outside the APMC at very low price.

4. APMC does not well equipped with storage facilities and timely procurement. This will lead to post-harvest losses to farmers.

5. APMC are against the interest of small & marginal farmers. Transport cost of these farmers are high due to limited APMC.

Government's initiatives to address challenges :-

1. Inter-state trade & Commerce is in the Concurrent list. This enabled central govt to enact the model Agricultural produce & Live stock marketing Act, 2017.

Some of Salient features are

* Farmers have the free access to their choice of marketing of their agricultural produce.

* Private parties are allowed to set up marketing area/market.

2. National Agricultural Market :

Electronic National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) is an online trading portal, in which farmers are able to sell their agricultural commodities.

3. Farmer Pro

is the entity Farmers, miller will help & reducing the commodities

4. PM-ASH

Abhiyan is Poor farmer Physical P market

5. Contract

will enable companies Inputs & agricultural

impact on and also Farmer

3. Farmer Produce organisations :-

Farmer Produce Organisation (FPO) is the entity where the primary producers such as farmers, milk producers etc are members. This organisation will help small & marginal farmers interest by reducing the cost of harvesting & transportation of their commodities and also helps to bargaining their commodities.

4. PM - AASHA :

Pradhan Manthri - Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan is enacted scheme to help the mSP to poor farmers. It has multiple components include physical procurement, getting difference amount of $\frac{3}{4}$ mSP & market price etc.

5. Contract Farming :

Central government's ^{model} contract farming will enable the multinational companies (MNC) & Domestic companies can coordinate with farmers by providing inputs such as fertilisers, seeds etc & buying the agricultural commodities.

Recent, agricultural reforms will impact on farmer's welfare by provide the marketing choice. And also it enables to get fair & remunerative price for farmer's.