

MS Swaminathan once termed the land consolidation as an unfinished agenda.

Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) and cooperatives are best way to finish the job.

India's 59% population depends upon agriculture as main income source of which 86.4% have marginal land holding.

This hinders economy of scale, trade commerce and export. which again hinders farmers income.

FPO's are group of large number of small farmers, who can pool their resources to achieve consolidation.

similarly cooperatives also works on consolidation agenda, but are not companies & have periodic elections.

Finance Minister in her 2020 budget announced for 10,000 FPO's under SPAC

in line with Niti Agyog's report of doubling farmers' income.

Benefits

- ① examples of kashi potato FPO's in UP and shri kuanon FPO in UP shows that they still managed to trade during drought.
- ② FPO makes pooling of transportation system, farm machines and information to - increase cost-benefit ratio.
- ③ This also increase their bargaining power which will be the crux of contract farming in recent times.
- ④ cooperative examples from AMUL of ujjain, sugarcane from maharashtra Abhinav farmers club of MH, mahagsaps of MH & poultry cooperative of Namakkal TN shows success story.

⑦ → cooperative not only help in price search but also technological upgradation, hospital provision, quality seed and chemicals.

⑧ After e-NAM FPO and cooperatives can easily connect with export regime and value chains.

Challenges

though, FPO's and cooperatives have immense potential, some challenges need to overcome.

① of 8000 FPO currently, 50% have not streamlined due to lack of awareness.

② female FPO's need to be promoted as initiated by NABARD.

③ credit provision, interest etc should be enhanced.

④ regular election of cooperative, reduction in elite system, transparency & accountability need to be promoted.