

Indian agriculture static and current affairs

1. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, popularly known as the Pusa Institute and the harbinger of Green Revolution, scales to the pinnacle of the crest of the ranking by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for the year 2023 under the category of Agriculture and Allied sectors.
2. The Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has released progress of area coverage data under summer crops as on 2nd June 2023.

Sl.No.	Crops	Area Sown: In Lakh hectare	
		Current Year 2023	Last Year 2022
1	Rice	28.51	30.33
2	Pulses	19.86	19.11
a	Greengram	16.35	15.58
b	Blackgram	3.26	3.25
c	Other Pulses	0.25	0.29
3	Shri Anna -cum -Coarse Cereals	12.10	11.73
a	Jowar	0.29	0.25
b	Bajra	4.80	3.99
c	Ragi	0.14	0.21
d	Maize	6.86	7.28
4	Oilseeds	10.26	11.11
a	Groundnut	5.00	5.51
b	Sunflower	0.32	0.31
c	Sesamum	4.61	4.52
d	Other Oilseeds	0.32	0.77
Total		70.74	72.28

3. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India celebrated **World Bee Day** on **20th May, 2023** at Raja Bhoj Agriculture College, Waraseoni Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh. India is producing about 1,33,200 Metric Tonnes (MTs) of Honey as per 2021-22- 3rd Advanced Estimate. India has exported 74413 MT of Natural Honey to the world worth Rs. 1221 crore (US \$ 164.835 million) during 2020-21.
4. The closing ceremony of the four-day long **Uttarakhand Shree Anna (Millets) Festival** took place in **Dehradun** under the chief hospitality of the Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar. Shri Tomar said that Shree Anna has only benefits, especially our small farmers are greatly benefited by it. With the increase in their income from Shree Anna, the country's economy will get a boost.
5. Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, along with Shri Rajbir Singh, Managing Director, NAFED, commemorated the launch of the first of its kind '**Millets Experience Centre (MEC)**' at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi
6. The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the **Summit on Farm Machinery Technology**, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Tractor and Mechanization Association (TMA).
7. The Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) of G20 nations on "**Sustainable Agriculture and Food System for Healthy People and Planet**" concluded successfully at **Varanasi**.
The discussions were focused on Innovations and Technological Interventions for Agri-Food Systems Transformation, Frontiers in Science and Technology for Achieving Food Security & Nutrition, Biofortification in Food Crops for Enhancing Nutritional Value, Tropical Seaweed Farming for nutrition and blue growth, Millets And oHer Ancient Grains International Research Initiative (MAHARISHI), One Health as an Integrated and Unifying Approach: Partnerships and strategies for coordinated action, Transboundary Pests and Diseases: R&D Priorities for resilient agri-food systems, Climate Resilient Technologies and Innovations for sustainable agri-food systems, Nature-Positive Agriculture: Science and Innovations for building resilient agri-food system, Biological Nitrification Inhibition (BNI): Reducing GHS emissions and increasing crop yields.
The meeting adopted chair summary cum outcome document focussing on major area of cooperation in agricultural research and development for food security and nutrition, digital agriculture, resilient agri food systems and public private partnership in agricultural R&D. MACS 2023 also supported launching of MAHARISHI which inter-alia will include.
 - Establish mechanisms to connect researchers and institutions working on identified grain crops to enhance the dissemination of research findings, and identify research gaps and needs.
 - Establish web platforms to connect researchers, exchange data, share communication products and thematic briefs to encourage research and information sharing.
 - Organize capacity-building activities and international workshops and conferences.
 - Performance identification and recognition to scientists**MAHARISHI** secretariat shall be housed at Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad with technical support from ICRISAT, One CGIAR Centres and other International organisations.
8. Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched the **SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal** and Mobile App, a Centralized Online System for seed traceability, authentication and inventory designed to deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification and seed certification. It has been developed by the NIC in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the theme of 'Uttam Beej – Samridh Kisan

9. To motivate farmers to adopt chemical free farming and enhance the reach of natural farming, the Government has formulated **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** as a separate and independent scheme from 2023-24 by up scaling the Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddati (BPKP). The success of NMNF will require behavioral change in farmers to shift from chemical based inputs to cow based locally produced inputs and thus requires continuous creation of awareness, training, handholding and capacity building of farmers in the initial years. The provision of Rs **459.00** crores for 2023-24 has been proposed after careful consideration and the requirement of increase of budget is not anticipated at this stage.

The budget for fertilizer subsidy for 2023-24 has been kept at Rs **1,75,099 crore**.

Natural Farming is a way of chemical free farming based on desi cow and locally available resources, with no chemical fertilizers and pesticides and promotes traditional indigenous practices which give freedom to farmers from externally purchased inputs and is largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm desi cow dung-urine formulation; managing pests through diversity, on-farm botanical concoctions and exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs directly or indirectly and emphasis is given on improving natural nutrient cycling and increase in organic matter in the soil, which can help with climate change resilience and carbon sequestration in soils.

“National Standard of Organic Production (NSOP) has defined organic agriculture as “a system of farm design and management to create an ecosystem which can achieve sustainable productivity without use of artificial off farm input such as chemical fertilizer and pesticides. Organic farming is considered to be climate friendly farming practices promoting low external input usage, recycling, reuse and reduced use of synthetics in farming.

Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) under its All India Network Programme on Organic Farming has developed package of practices for organic production in cropping and farming systems mode.

10. Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched National Crop Insurance Portal's digitized claim settlement module namely **DigiClaim** under the ambit of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

MCQ for Practice

Q1. In which city Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) of G20 nations on “Sustainable Agriculture and Food System for Healthy People and Planet” concluded?

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Dehradun
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Goa
- (e) None

Ans(c)

Q2. Where the MAHARISHI secretariat shall be housed?

- (a) ICAR
- (b) ICRISAT
- (c) IIMR
- (d) CGAIR
- (e) None

Ans(c)