



## 42nd Session of FAO Conference

### Why in News

Recently, **the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** addressed the **42<sup>nd</sup> session of Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Conference**.

- The Conference takes place **every two years** and is FAO's **supreme governing body**.
- It determines the **policies of the Organization, approves the budget**, and makes recommendations to Members on food and agriculture issues.

### Key Points

- **India's Efforts for Food Security during the Covid-19 Pandemic:**
  - **High Production of Foodgrains:** India registered **an all-time high production of foodgrains at 305 million tonnes as well as in exports** during 2020-21, contributing to **global food security**.
  - **KISAN RAIL:** It was introduced to transport the essential commodities including perishable horticulture produce, milk and dairy produce from the production centres to the large urban markets.
  - **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package:** Under this scheme, free food grains were provided to 810 million beneficiaries and it has been further extended in which workers will be benefited till November, 2021.
  - **PM Kisan Scheme:** More than **Rs.1,37,000 Crore** have been sent to the bank accounts of over **100 million farmers** under this to **provide income support to the farmers**.
- **Climate Change and Agricultural Schemes:**
  - **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY):** It was **launched in 2015** to address the **issues of water resources** and provide a **permanent solution** that envisages Per Drop More Crop.
  - **Green India Mission:** It was launched in 2014 under the umbrella of **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** with the **primary objective** of **protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover**.
  - **Soil Health Card (SHC):** It was launched with the main **objective** of analysing **cluster soil samples and advocating farmers** regarding their **land fertility status**.
  - **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):** It was executed to extensively leverage **adaptation of climate-smart practices and technologies** in conjunction with the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research** and state governments of India.
  - **Rainfed Area Development (RAD):** It focuses on **Integrated Farming System (IFS)** for **enhancing productivity** and **minimizing risks** associated with **climatic variabilities**.
  - **Sub-mission on Agro Forestry (SMAF):** It aims to **encourage farmers** to plant **multi-purpose trees together** with the agriculture crops for **climate resilience** and an **additional source of income** to the farmers, as well as enhanced feedstock to inter alia wood-based and herbal industry.
  - **National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA),** to develop, demonstrate and disseminate the techniques to make agriculture resilient to adverse impacts of climate

change.

- **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER):** It is a [Central Sector Scheme](#), a **sub-mission** under **NMSA**, aims to develop certified organic production in a value chain mode.

▪ **Other Steps Highlighted:**

- [Green Revolution](#), [White Revolution](#), [blue revolution](#), [Public Distribution System](#) and price support system.

## Food and Agriculture Organization

- **FAO is a specialized agency of the [United Nations](#)** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- **World Food Day** is celebrated every year on **16<sup>th</sup> October** to mark the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.
- It is one of the UN food aid organisations **based in Rome (Italy)**. Its sister **bodies** are the [World Food Programme](#) and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**.
- **Initiatives Taken:**
  - [Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems \(GIAHS\)](#).
  - Monitors the [Desert Locust](#) situation throughout the world.
  - The [Codex Alimentarius Commission or CAC](#) is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.
  - [The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#).
- **Flagship Publications:**
  - The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA).
  - The State of the World's Forests (SOFO).
  - [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\)](#).
  - The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA).
  - The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO).
  - [World Food Price Index](#).
- **India and FAO:**
  - **Support of FAO** in endorsing the Indian proposal for an **International Year of Pulses** which was celebrated in **2016** and for **declaring 2023** as the **International Year of Millets**.
  - **India released a commemorative coin of Rs. 75 denomination** to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the FAO (16<sup>th</sup> October 2020).

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