



Dung Based Formulations for Farming

Why in News?

Recently, [NITI Aayog](#) has released a report titled- “**Production and promotion of organic and bio fertilizers with special focus on improving economic viability of gaushalas**”, recommending **Capital Assistance to Cow Shelters** to promote Dung-Based Fertilizers for Agriculture, thus promoting [Natural Farming](#).

What are the Key Highlights of the Report?

- **Need to Promote Dung-based Formulations:**
 - Agriculture in India was based on an integrated approach of organic fertilizers. But after the [Green Revolution](#), India could not maintain this balance and use of **chemical fertilizers brought imbalance** in the soil nutrients.
 - Cow shelters can **address the problem of stray cattle that damaged crops** in many parts of the country.
 - The number of stray and abandoned cattle had risen to a **level beyond the resources available** with existing gaushalas for their upkeep and sustenance and suggested channeling the potential of such cattle wealth for promoting natural and sustainable farming.
- **Recommendations:**
 - The government can help gaushalas through capital assistance so that they **could market cow dung and cow urine-based formulations** for applications in agriculture.
 - Gaushalas can be of great help in promoting natural farming and organic farming. Thus, complementarity can be built to **promote gaushalas and natural farming**.
- **Significance:**
 - Cow dung-based organic fertilizers will have a **huge impact in fulfilling the constitutional mandate under Article 48** that the State shall take steps for preserving and improving cattle breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves, and other milch and draught cattle.

What is Natural Farming?

- Natural farming is a method of agriculture that seeks to **create a balanced and self-sustaining ecosystem** in which crops can grow without the use of synthetic chemicals or genetically modified organisms.
 - Instead of relying on artificial inputs like synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, natural farmers rely on techniques **like crop rotation, intercropping, and composting** to enhance soil health and support crop growth.
- Natural farming methods are **often based on traditional knowledge and practices and may be adapted to local conditions** and resources.
 - The goal of natural farming is to **produce healthy, nutritious food** in a way that is sustainable and environmentally friendly.

What are the Initiatives Related to Sustainable Agriculture?

- Mission Organic Value Chain Development for Northeastern Region (MOVCDNER)

- [National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture](#)
- [Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana \(PKVY\)](#)
- [Sub-mission on AgroForestry \(SMAF\)](#)
- [Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana](#)

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