



## CDP-SURAKSHA

**For Prelims:** About CDP-Suraksha, Status of Horticulture in India, Technology in Agriculture.

**For Mains:** Role of technology in [doubling the income of farmers](#), [Farm subsidies](#) related Issues and Way Forward, Investment in Agriculture, Agricultural Reforms.

**Source:** [IE](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the Central government has launched a new platform called **CDP-SURAKSHA to disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers** under the [Cluster Development Programme \(CDP\)](#).

- This will boost the growth of India's horticulture sector, which contributes nearly **one-third** to the agriculture [gross value addition \(GVA\)](#).

### What is CDP-SURAKSHA?

#### ▪ About:

- SURAKSHA stands for **“System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge, and Secure Horticulture Assistance.”**
- The platform will allow an instant disbursement of subsidies to farmers in their bank accounts by utilising the [e-RUPI](#) voucher from the [National Payments Corporation of India \(NPCI\)](#).
- It has features such as database integration with [PM-KISAN](#), cloud-based server space from NIC, [UIDAI](#) validation, eRUPI integration, local government directory (LGD), content management system, [geotagging, and geo-fencing](#).

#### ▪ Working:

- The platform allows access to farmers, vendors, implementing agencies (IA), cluster development agencies (CDAs), and officials of the [National Horticulture Board \(NHB\)](#).
- A farmer can login using their mobile number, place an order and contribute their share of the cost of planting material.
- After payment, an [e-RUPI](#) voucher will be generated. This voucher will then be received by a vendor, who will provide the required planting material to the farmer.
- After the delivery of material, farmers have to verify the delivery through geo-tagged photos and videos of their field.
- After verification, the implementing agencies (IA) will release the money to the vendor for the e-RUPI voucher. The vendor will be required to upload an invoice of the payment on the portal.
- The IA will collect all the documents and share them with the CDA for subsidy release, then only the subsidy will be released to the IA.
- However, the farmer, who raised the demand for the plant material using the platform, can avail of the subsidy at the first stage only.

## What is e-Rupee?

- It is a **one-time payment mechanism** that enables **users to redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access**, at the merchants accepting [UPI e-Prepaid Vouchers](#).
- The e-RUPI would be shared with the beneficiaries for a specific purpose or activity by organisations via SMS or QR code.

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## A cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment: e-RUPI

### About e-RUPI

- **Developer:** e-RUPI is developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) which also developed the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform and the Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM).
- **Functioning of e-RUPI:** It is basically a digital voucher which a person receives on phone in the form of an SMS or QR code.
  - It is a pre-paid voucher, which the person can then go and redeem at any centre that accepts it.
  - It can be easily used even by those who use basic feature phones.
- **Significance:** Even the smallest of online payments can be tracked down, ensuring that no misuse of payments occur.
  - It is therefore expected to play a major role in strengthening Direct Benefit transfer (DBT) schemes.



## What is the Status of the Horticulture Sector in India?

- India is the **2<sup>nd</sup> largest** producer of fruits and vegetables.
- Fruits and vegetables account for almost 90% of the total horticulture production in the country.
- The Indian horticulture sector contributes about 33% to the agriculture [Gross Value Added](#)

**(GVA)** making a very significant contribution to the Indian economy.

- India is currently producing about 320.48 million tons of horticulture produce which has surpassed the food grain production, that too from a much smaller area (25.66 million Ha. for horticulture against 127.6 M. ha. for food grains).
  - The **productivity of horticulture crops is much higher compared to the productivity of food grains** (12.49 tones/ha against 2.23 tones/ha.).
- According to the **Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)**, India leads in the production of certain vegetables (ginger and okra) and fruits (banana, mangoes and papaya).
  - In terms of **exports, India is ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in vegetables and 23<sup>rd</sup> in fruits**, and its share in the global horticultural market is a mere 1%.
  - Bangladesh, UAE, Nepal, Netherlands, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, the UK, Oman, and Qatar are the major export destinations for fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Around **15-20% of the fruits and vegetables in India are wasted** along the supply chain or at a consumer level, contributing to **greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)**.

## What is the Cluster Development Program (CDP)?

- **About:**
  - It is a **central sector programme** aimed at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.
  - A **horticulture cluster** is a regional/geographical concentration of targeted horticulture crops.
- **Implementation:**
  - It will be implemented by the **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
  - In a pilot phase, the programme will be implemented in 12 horticulture clusters, out of the total **55 clusters** selected for the programme.
  - These clusters will be implemented through **Cluster Development Agencies (CDAs)** which are appointed on the recommendations of the respective State/UT Government.
- **Objectives:**
  - To address all major issues related to the Indian **horticulture sector** including pre-production, production, post-harvest management, logistics, marketing and branding.
  - CDP **aims to improve exports of targeted crops by about 20%** and create **cluster-specific brands to enhance the competitiveness of cluster crops**.
  - To leverage geographical specialisation and promote integrated and market-led development of horticulture clusters.
  - To converge with other initiatives of the Government such as the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**.
- **Examples:**
  - Some **clusters identified for the implementation of CDP are:**
    - Siphahijala (Tripura) for pineapple
    - Solapur (Maharashtra) and Chitradurga (Karnataka) for pomegranate
    - West Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya) for turmeric.

## What are the Challenges Faced by the Horticulture Sector?

- **Production Challenges:** Such as small operational landholdings, lack of irrigation facilities and poor soil management, threat of pests etc.
- **Institutional Challenges:** The limited outreach of **farm insurance** and **farm mechanisation**, combined with a **lack of access to institutional credit** for small and marginal farmers, contribute to lower investment in the sector.
- **Climate Change:** Climate change-related events such as changing weather patterns, droughts, floods, and other natural disasters, are another significant challenge that can lead to crop failures and losses.
- **Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO):** Weak **FPOs** are also the sector's challenges, limiting farmers' ability to benefit fully from the opportunities available.
- **Infrastructural Issues:** Other challenges such as the **perishable nature** of fruits and vegetables, **Poor logistics** and lack of equitable **cold storage and warehousing** facilities, a **lack of guidance** for farmers on which crops to plant, resulting in overproduction of certain

commodities and shortages of others.

## What Initiatives have been Taken for the Development of the Horticulture Sector?

- **National Horticulture Board (NHB):**
  - It was set up by the Government of India in **1984** as an Autonomous organization under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
  - It aims to improve the **integrated development of the Horticulture industry** and to help in coordinating, and sustaining the production and processing of fruits and vegetables.
- **Cluster Development Programme:**
  - It aims to promote the integrated and market-led development of pre-production, production, post-harvest, logistics, branding, and marketing activities by leveraging the geographical specialisation of horticulture clusters
- **CHAMAN (Coordinated Horticulture Assessment and Management using geo-informatics):**
  - Under this project, sound methodology for estimation of Horticulture crops is being developed and implemented on pilot basis using **Sample Survey methodology** and **Remote Sensing** technology.
- **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):**
  - It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashews, cocoa and bamboo.
  - **Subschemes:**
    - National Horticulture Mission (NHM)
    - **Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH)**
    - National Horticulture Board (NHB)
    - Coconut Development Board (CDB)
    - **Central Institute of Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland.**
- **Horticulture Area Production Information System (HAPIS):**
  - This is a web portal for the online submission of district-level data pertaining to area and production of horticulture crops.
- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY):**
  - It is addressing the irrigation problem which aims to promote the development of **irrigation infrastructure, expand the cultivable areas**, and enhance on-farm water efficiency.

## Way Forward

- To enhance the productivity of this sector and to improve the livelihood of farmers, the **effective and timely disbursement of subsidies is essential**.
- There is tremendous scope for **enhancing the productivity of Indian horticulture** which is imperative to cater to the **country's estimated demand of 650 Million MT of fruits and vegetables by the year 2050**.

### **Drishiti Mains Question:**

Q. Discuss the sustainability of providing subsidies as a solution to various issues in India, and analyse whether it imposes a burden on the fiscal purse. Support your argument with relevant examples.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q1. Under the Kisan Credit Card scheme, short-term credit support is given to farmers for which of the following purposes? (2020)**

1. Working capital for maintenance of farm assets

2. Purchase of combine harvesters, tractors and mini trucks
3. Consumption requirements of farm households
4. Post-harvest expenses
5. Construction of family house and setting up of village cold storage facility

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only  
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only  
(c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Ans: (b)**

**Mains:**

**Q.** Assess the role of the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers? **(2018)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/cdp-suraksha>

