



World Food Day

Why in News

World Food Day is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the United Nation's **Food and Agriculture Organisation** (FAO) on **16th October 1945**.

- The Prime Minister of India released a **commemorative coin of Rs. 75 denomination** to mark the **75th Anniversary of the FAO**.
- FAO is a **specialised agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

Key Points

▪ About World Food Day:

- It is observed **annually on 16th October** to address the problem of global hunger.
- It emphasises on the **Sustainable Development Goal 2** (SDG 2) i.e. **Zero Hunger**.
- **Theme for 2020:** "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together."
- There has been a renewed focus on food, **nutrition**, health, immunity and sustainability due to the unprecedented challenges posed by the **Covid-19 pandemic**.

▪ 75th Anniversary of FAO:

- Over the years, FAO has **helped to increase agricultural production and eradicate hunger all over the world**, including India and has played an important role in increasing nutrition.
- **2020's Nobel Peace Prize** to the **World Food Programme** is also a major achievement for the FAO as the programme was started by FAO.

▪ Indian Context:

- FAO has closely watched **India's fight against malnutrition** in the past decades but its scope had many constraints.
 - **Due to reasons such as** pregnancy at a young age, lack of education and information, inadequate access to drinking water, lack of cleanliness, etc. **India is lagging behind in achieving the expected results of "malnutrition free India" by 2022**, envisaged under the **National Nutrition Mission** (POSHAN Abhiyaan).
- FAO **supported India's proposal to declare 2023** as the **International Year of Millets**.
 - The move will **encourage intake of nutritious food, increase their availability** further and **benefit small and medium farmers** who mostly grow coarse grains on their land where there is a problem of water and the land is not so fertile.

Highlighted Indian Initiatives

- [Eat Right India](#) and [Fit India Movement](#) along with [Swachh Bharat Abhiyan](#), [Jal Jeevan Mission](#) and other efforts will improve the health of Indians and heal the environment.
- **Introduction of 17 new [biofortified varieties of crops](#)** to overcome the shortcomings of the common variety of crops which lacks important micronutrients.
 - Example: [MACS 4028 Wheat](#), [Madhuban Gajar](#), etc.
- **Increased ambit and effective implementation** of the [Food Security Act, 2013](#).
- **Amendments** to the [APMC \(agricultural produce market committee\) Acts](#) to make them more competitive.
- Steps to ensure that farmers get one and a half times the cost as [Minimum Support Price](#) (MSP), which along with the government procurement, is an important part of ensuring the country's food security.
- Development of a large network of [Farmer Producer Organisations](#) (FPOs).
- **Amendments in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955** to deal with the issue of grain wastage in India.
- Government is making efforts to **make India Trans Fat free by 2022**, a year ahead of the [World Health Organisation](#) (WHO) target, in synergy with the vision of [New India @75](#) (75 years of India's independence).
 - **Trans Fat** is a **food toxin** present in **Partially Hydrogenated Vegetable Oils** (PHVOs) (e.g. vanaspati, shortening, margarine, etc.), baked and fried foods.
 - It is a major **contributor to the rise in [non-communicable diseases](#)** in India and also a modifiable risk factor for [cardiovascular diseases](#) (CVD). Eliminating CVD risk factor is especially relevant during Covid-19 as **people with CVD are predisposed to have serious conditions having** an impact on mortality.

[Source: PIB](#)

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