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{Agri – In news – 2021/04} In News Topics for Prelims

[PIB](#) | [PIB](#) | [PIB](#) | [PIB](#)

eSanta

- **eSanta** is an **electronic marketplace** providing a platform to connect **aqua farmers & the buyers by eliminating middlemen.**

- It enables farmers to get a **better price & the exporter to directly purchase quality products** from the farmers enhancing traceability.
- It is launched by **Commerce Ministry**.

Poshan Gyan Repository

- A **national digital repository on health & nutrition** launched by:
 - ✓ **NITI Aayog**
 - ✓ **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**
 - ✓ **Centre for Social & Behaviour Change** (set up by Ashoka University & Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Poshan Gyan is a comprehensive online resource for anybody working in the nutrition sector in India.
- It is curated and maintained by **NITI Aayog** in joint efforts with other development partners.
- It is a collection of effective communication materials **created by government agencies & other development organizations to tackle the challenges of knowledge awareness in the nutrition sector**.

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

- **Context:** Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) inaugurated the fifth session of the Codex Committee on Spices & Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) established under Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).
- **Codex Alimentarius Commission** is an **intergovernmental body** established in 1963 jointly by:
 - ✓ **UN's Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)**
 - ✓ **World Health Organization (WHO),**
- The Codex Alimentarius, or "**Food Code**" is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
- CAC aims to **protect the health of consumers & ensure fair practices in the food trade**.
- Currently, it has 189 Codex Members.
 - ✓ **India is a member.**
- Codex Standards cover all the **main foods, whether processed, semi-processed or raw**.

Codex Committee on Spices & Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

- It was formed in 2013 to develop & expand worldwide standards for spices & culinary herbs.
- It has developed harmonized global Codex standards for spices & herbs.
- **India acts as host country & Spices Board of India as the Secretariat** for organizing the sessions of the committee.

UN Food System Summit

- **Context:** India holds national dialogue on UN Food Systems Summit 2021.
- The **first ever UN Food System Summit** is expected to be held in September 2021.
- The summit aims to strategize the actions for **positive change in Agri-Food Systems** in the world.
- The Agro-Food System comprises of all those activities related to the production, processing, distribution, sale, preparation & consumption of food.
- The food summit will help to realize the vision of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG-2: Zero Hunger)**.
- There are **5 Action Tracks** that draws on the expertise of actors from across the world's food systems.
- These Action Tracks are aligned with the Summit's five objectives:
 1. Access to Safe & Nutritious food for all.
 2. Shift to consumption patterns.
 3. Boost **nature-positive** production.
 4. Advance **equitable** livelihoods.
 5. Build **resilience** to vulnerabilities, shock & stress.

{Agri – Marketing – 2021/04} Honey Corners

[PIB](#) | [Prelims](#) + Mains | [GS3](#) > [Agriculture & Allied Activities](#)

- **Context:** Agriculture Ministry has launched a portal & Honey Corners of NAFED in New Delhi.
- It is initiative of **National Bee Board** (NBB – **Agriculture Ministry**) under **National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)**.
- NAFED 'Honey Corners Stores' are intended to **boost marketing** of honey & beehive products.
- The portal is being developed for online registration to achieve **traceability of source of honey (to counter adulteration of honey)** & other beehive products on a digital platform.

National Bee Board (NBB)

- The National Bee Board (NBB) was constituted in 2006.
- The main objective of the National Bee Board (NBB) is overall development of beekeeping
 - ✓ by promoting **scientific beekeeping**
 - ✓ by increasing the productivity through pollination &
 - ✓ increase the income of the Beekeepers.

National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)

- It is a **central sector component** under the existing **“Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) – Ministry of Agriculture”**.
- The mission aims for the overall promotion & development of scientific beekeeping in the country to achieve the goal of **‘Sweet Revolution’**.
 - ⇒ **Golden Revolution: Honey Production/Horticulture Development**
 - ⇒ The period between 1991 to 2003 is known as the period of Golden Revolution in India.
- **Main objective of NBHM:**
 - ✓ To promote holistic growth of beekeeping industry for income & employment generation for farm & non-farm households.
 - ✓ To enhance agriculture/horticulture production, developing infrastructural facilities like **honey testing labs**, custom hiring centres, etc.
- The scheme also aims to create awareness about scientific beekeeping under:
 - ✓ **Mini Mission-I:** production & productivity improvement of various crops through pollination assisted by adoption of scientific beekeeping.
 - ✓ **Mini Mission-II:** post-harvest management of beekeeping.
 - ✓ **Mini Mission-III:** R&D generation for different regions/states/Agro-Climatic conditions.

Achievements made in Honey/Beekeeping

- **Honey Testing Lab at National Dairy Development Board (Gujarat)** has been setup under NBHM.
- Standards of Honey, Bees Wax & Royal Jelly has been notified by **FSSAI**.
- **Honey production** has **increased** from 76,150 MTs (2013-14) to 1,20,000 MTs (2019-20).
- **Export** of honey has **increased** from 28378.42 MTs (2013-14) to 59536.74 MTs (2019-20).

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

- MIDH 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, cocoa, bamboo, etc.
- **GOI contributes 85% of total outlay & 15% share is contributed by State Governments.**
- **In the case of North Eastern States and Himalayan States, GOI contribution is 100%.**
- Similarly, for **development of bamboo** and programmes of **National Horticulture Board (NHB)**, Coconut Development Board (CDB), Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland and the National Level Agen-

cies (NLA), **GOI contribution will be 100%**.

Main objectives of Mission

- Promote holistic growth of horticulture sector, including bamboo and coconut through **area based regionally differentiated strategies**;
- Encourage aggregation of farmers into farmer groups like FPOs to bring **economy of scale** and scope;
- Enhance horticulture production, augment farmers, income and strengthen **nutritional security**;
- Improve productivity by way of **quality germplasm**, planting material and water use efficiency through **Micro Irrigation**.
- Support skill development and create employment generation opportunities for rural youth in horticulture and post-harvest management, especially in the cold chain sector.

Sub-schemes and area of operation

Sub Scheme	Target group / area of operation
1) National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	All states & UTs except states in NE and Himalayan Region.
2) Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH)	All states in NE and Himalayan Region
3) National Bamboo Mission (NBM)	All states & UTs
4) National Horticulture Board (NHB)	All states & UTs focusing on commercial horticulture
5) Coconut Development Board (CDB)	All States and UTs where coconut is grown
6) Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH)	NE states , focusing on HRD and capacity building.

National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)

- NAFED, an apex Organisation under the **Ministry of Agriculture**, deals with **Cooperative marketing of agricultural produce** in India.
- NAFED was established in 1958 to **promote cooperatives** involved in **marketing of agricultural produce**.
- It is registered under the **Multi State Co-operative Societies Act**.

⇒ **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)** was also established (in 1987) under the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984**.

⇒ **It functions under the** administrative control of **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.

⇒ TRIFED is mandated to ringing about **socio-economic development of tribals** by institutionalising the **trade of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) & Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP)** cultivated by them.

⇒ TRIFED plays the dual role of both a market developer and a service provider.

- NAFED is one of the largest procurement as well as marketing agencies for agricultural products in India.
- **NAFED** is the nodal agency to implement **price stabilization measures** under "**Operation Greens**" which aims to double the farmers' income by 2022.
- **Agricultural farmers are the main members of NAFED**, who have the authority in the form of members of the General Body in the working of NAFED.
- The objectives of the NAFED are:
 - ✓ to develop marketing, processing & storage of agricultural, horticultural & forest produce,
 - ✓ distribution of agricultural machinery, implements & other inputs,
 - ✓ undertake inter-state, import & export trade, wholesale or retail as the case may be &
 - ✓ assist cooperative marketing, processing & supply societies in India.
- In furtherance of these objectives, the NAFED may undertake one or more of the following activities.
 - ✓ undertake purchase, sale & supply of **agricultural inputs & machinery**;
 - ✓ act as warehouseman under the Warehousing Act & **construct its own godowns & cold storages**;
 - ✓ act as agent of any Government agency or cooperative institution for supplying agricultural inputs;
 - ✓ undertake manufacture of agricultural, machinery & implements, processing, packing, etc;
 - ✓ establish processing units for processing of agricultural & forest produce, wool & allied products;
 - ✓ undertake grading, packing, standardization, scientific treatment & process of agricultural produce;
 - ✓ **advance loans to its members** & on the security of goods;

Operation Greens

- Budget 2018-19 announced "Operation Greens" on the line of "Operation Flood", with an outlay of Rs. 500 crores **to promote Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), agri-logistics, processing facilities**, etc.
- The pattern of assistance will comprise of grants-in-aid at the rate of 50% of the eligible project cost in all areas, subject to maximum Rs 50 crores per project.
- However, **in case of FPOs, the grant-in-aid will be at the rate of 70%** of the eligible project cost in all areas, subject to maximum Rs 50 crore per project.
- The eligible organisation for availing financial assistance would include State Agriculture & other Marketing Federations, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO), cooperatives, companies, Self-help groups, etc.
- In accordance with Operation Greens, the Ministry has formulated a scheme for integrated development of

Tomato, Onion & Potato (TOP) value chain.

Objectives of Operation Greens

- Enhancing value realisation of TOP farmers by targeted interventions.
- Price stabilisation in the TOP clusters. **NAFED** will be the Nodal Agency to implement price stabilisation.
- Reduction in post-harvest losses by creation of suitable agro-logistics & storage centres.
- Increase in food processing capacities & value addition in TOP value chain.
- Setting up of a market intelligence network to collect & collate data on demand & supply of TOP crops.

{Agri – Scheme – 2021/04} Large Area Certification

[PIB](#) | [Prelims](#) + [Mains](#) | [GS3](#) > [Organic farming](#)

- **Context:** Government has certified 14,491 ha of area of **Car Nicobar & Nancowry group of islands** in UT of A&N Islands under the 'Large Area Certification' (LAC) scheme of the [PGS-India \(Participatory Guarantee System\) certification programme](#).



What is Large Area Certification Scheme?

- Department of Agriculture under its scheme of [Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna \(PKVY\)](#) has launched a **quick certification programme "Large Area Certification"** (LAC) to harness potential organic areas.
- Under LAC, each village in the area is considered as one cluster/group.
- All farmers with their farmland need to adhere to the standard requirements & can get certified en-mass.
- Certification is **renewed on annual basis** by a process of **peer appraisals** as per the process of [PGS-India](#).
- Under the scheme, **individual farmers can avail financial assistance** for certification under any of the prevailing certification systems of [NPOP](#) or [PGS-India](#).

Advantages of LAC Over Old Certification Process

- **As per the established norm of organic production systems:**
 - ✓ The areas having **chemical input usage history** are required to undergo a **transition period of minimum 2-3 years** to qualify as organic.
 - ✓ During this period, farmers need to adopt standard organic agriculture practices & keep their farms under the certification process.
 - ✓ On successful completion, such farms can be certified as organic after 2-3 years.
 - ✓ The process also requires elaborate documentation & time to time verification by authorities.
- Whereas under **LAC requirements are simple & the area can be certified almost immediately**.
- LAC is a **quick certification process that is cost-effective, & farmers do not have to wait for 2-3 years for marketing [PGS organic certified](#) products**.

Why were Car Nicobar & Nancowry group of Islands certified LAC?

- **Car Nicobar & Nancowry group of Islands have been traditionally organic for ages.**
- The administration has also banned the sale, purchase & usage of any chemical inputs or GMO seeds in these islands.
- An expert committee has verified their organic status & recommended for declaration of the area as certified organic under the PGS-India certification programme.

Suggested Reading: pmfias.com/organic-farming/ (Covered in December 2020 IA Current Affairs)

{Agri – Schemes – 2021/04} Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- **Context:** Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has crossed the Rs. 8000 crore mark.

- The largest share of the pie is contributed by **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** (58%), **agri-entrepreneurs** (24%) & **individual farmers** (13%).

Features of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- It is a **medium-long term debt financing facility** for investment in viable projects for **post-harvest management infrastructure** & **community farming assets** through interest subvention & credit guarantee.
- Size of the financing facility: **Rs. 1 lakh Cr.**
- Credit Guarantee for a loan up to INR 2 crore.
- The duration of the scheme is from **FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years)**.

Eligible beneficiaries

- Farmers, FPOs, PACS, Marketing Cooperative Societies, SHGs, Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Start-ups, & Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored PPP Projects.

Interest Subvention

- All loans under this financing facility will have **interest subvention of 3% p.a.** upto a limit of Rs. 2 crore.
- It will be available for a maximum period of 7 years.

Management of Fund

- It will be managed & monitored through an online **Management Information System (MIS) platform**.
- National, State, District level monitoring committees will be set up to ensure real time monitoring & effective feedback.

Credit Guarantee

- It will be available for eligible borrowers from the financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro & Small Enterprise scheme for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore.

Benefits

Farmers (including FPOs, PACS, Marketing Cooperative Societies, etc.)

- Improved marketing infrastructure.
- With investments in logistics infrastructure, farmers will be able to sell in the market with reduced post-harvest losses & a smaller number of intermediaries.

- With modern packaging & cold storage system access, farmers will be able to further decide when to sell in the market & improve realization.
- **Community farming assets** for improved productivity & optimization of inputs will result in substantial savings to farmers.

Government

- Government will be able to **direct priority sector lending in the currently unviable projects** by supporting through interest subvention, incentive, & credit guarantee.
- Central/State Government Agencies or local bodies will be able to structure viable PPP projects for attracting investment in agriculture infrastructure.

Agri entrepreneurs & startups

- With a dedicated source of funding, entrepreneurs will push for innovation in agriculture sector by leveraging new age technologies including IoT, AI.

Banking ecosystem

- With Credit Guarantee, incentive & interest subvention lending institutions will be able to lend with a lower risk.

{Agri – Schemes – 2021/04} Shaphari Scheme

[TH](#) | [Prelims](#) + [Mains](#) | [GS3](#) > [Economics of Animal Rearing](#) etc.

- **Context: Marine Product Exports Development Authority (MPEDA)** has developed a **certification scheme for aquaculture products** called 'Shaphari'.
- It is a Sanskrit word meaning superior quality of fishery products suitable for human consumption.
- **Shaphari Scheme** is based on **UN Food & Agriculture Organization's (FAO) technical guidelines on aquaculture certification**.
- It will have 2 Components:
 - ✓ **Certification of Hatcheries for quality of seeds**
 - ✓ **Approving shrimp farms**
- Certification of hatcheries will help farmers easily identify good quality seed producers.
- It will make entire certification process digital.

Problems Faced by Shrimp Sector

- White Feces Disease & Running Mortality Syndrome diseases continue to be the primary challenge to the productivity & profitability of shrimp farming in India.
- Consignments are rejected because of safety concerns like presence of **antibiotic residue**.
- Non-availability of bigger size shrimps in India.
- Inadequate storage capacity in India.

Export Potential

- **Frozen Shrimp** is India's **largest exported seafood item**.
- India exported frozen shrimp worth almost \$5 billion in 2019-20, with the U.S. & China its biggest buyers.
- **Andhra Pradesh**, West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat & Tamil Nadu are major shrimp producing States & around 95% of the cultured shrimp produce is exported.

Way Forward

- Encouraging hatcheries to have nursery facilities to buffer the seed supplies.
- Compliance of **strict bio security measures** & adoption of better management practices by the farmers.
- Different poly culture models using native shrimp species (Indian white & tiger) with compatible herbivorous fin fishes such as Milkfish, Etroplus etc.

Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA)

- It is **nodal** state-owned agency engaged in **fishery production & allied activities**.
 - ⇒ **Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA)** functions under **Commerce Ministry** (not under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying).
 - ⇒ **Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Authority (APEDA)** also functions under **Commerce Ministry** (not under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare)
- MPEDA was established in 1972 under the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972.
- It aims to:
 - ✓ Increase exports of seafood including fisheries of all kinds.
 - ✓ Specifying standards, Marketing, processing, extension & training in various aspects.

eSanta of NaCSA-MPEDA

- **National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA)** is an extension arm of **MPEDA**.
- The objectives of NaCSA are to encourage and uplift the small and marginal farmers through organization

of clusters and maintaining Best Management Practices in **shrimp culture**.

- The advantage of cluster approach to shrimp farming is that it enables participating farmers to organize the schedule of farm operations, quality seed procurement, etc. contributing to substantial reduction in costs.
- The aqua products are generally exported to EU, America, Japan, China & other Asian countries.
- NaCSA has taken the initiative to build a bridge between Aqua farmers and buyers to interact directly.
- It led the idea to form an **e-commerce platform** eSanta portal.
- The term eSanta depicts the **electronic market for aqua farmers**.

{Agri – Questions for Prelims – 2021/04}

Q1. Consider the following statements about Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

- 1) It is an intergovernmental body established to ensure fair practices in generic medicines trade.
- 2) It is an intergovernmental body (NGO) jointly established by WHO & Ministry of Health.
- 3) It covers all schedules of generic medicine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) All
- c) 1 only
- d) None

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

- 1) It is an intergovernmental body (NGO) jointly established by FAO & Ministry of Agriculture of India.
- 2) It covers all processed, semi-processed & raw foods.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Q3. Consider the following statements:

- 1) National Agriculture Market (eNAM) functions under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce.
- 2) eNAM is an extension arm of Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Authority (APEDA).

- 3) eSanta, the electronic market for aqua farmers, functions under the aegis of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 3 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) All
- d) None

Q4. Consider the following statements:

- 1) National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) is a central sector component under the existing "Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
- 2) National Bee Board functions under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Q5. Consider the following statements:

- 1) Poshan Gyan Repository digital repository on health & nutrition is launched jointly by Ministry of Women and Child Development & Ministry of Health.
- 2) It is curated and maintained by NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Q6. Which of the below pairs are correctly matched?

	Statutory Body (a non-constitutional body which is set up by an	Administrative Control
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	act of parliament)	
1.	Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)	Ministry of Fisheries
2.	Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
3.	National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
4.	Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)	Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Codes:

- a) All
- b) 1, 3 & 4 only
- c) 3 & 4 only
- d) 1 & 3 only

Answers

Q1. D) None

Q2. A) 1 only (incorrect)

Q3. D) None

- **National Agriculture Market (eNAM)** is a **pan-India electronic trading portal** which **networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.**
- **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** is the lead agency for implementing eNAM under the aegis of **Ministry of Agriculture** and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India.

Q4. C) Both

Q5. B) 2 only

Q6. C) 3 & 4 only