



drishti

Organic Turmeric to Weed Out Marijuana in Malkangiri

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/organic-turmeric-to-weed-out-marijuana-in-malkangiri

Why in News

Recently, the **Malkangiri district** administration, **Odisha** has initiated a project to divert the region's tribals from **illegal marijuana cultivation** by promoting organic turmeric as a profitable cash crop.

Organic turmeric will weed out the marijuana cultivation in remote areas of **Swabhiman Anchal** in Malkangiri.

Key Points

- **Reasons for Illegal Marijuana Cultivation:**
 - Lack of communication.
 - Poverty.
 - Financed by the Drug mafias from outside, allegedly.
 - Source of easy money.
- This move comes after a **survey**, conducted in **2019** by the Malkangiri district administration.
 - It revealed that almost all tribal families grow turmeric for their consumption but not for commercial purposes.
 - The district has a **suitable climate and geographical conditions** so organic turmeric can become the tool of economic development for poor tribals as well as cash crop alternative of marijuana.
 - It is estimated that each acre of organic turmeric can provide ₹70,000 to 80,000 income to the farmers.
- The project has been implemented by the **Horticulture** and **Agriculture** Departments. Interested farmers have been registered for **scientific training**.

Marijuana or Hemp

- It is part of the **cannabis super-family**, is illegal for commercial cultivation though it grows as a weed in several parts of the country.
 - Uttarakhand, Jammu and Uttar Pradesh have **allowed restricted cultivation** of the plant for medical research.
- It has two components **CBD (cannabidiol)** and **THC (tetrahydrocannabinol)**.
 - CBD does not cause intoxication or euphoria and has been successfully proven to provide **relief to chronic pain** without causing psychoactive side effects.
 - It is **THC which is the primary psychoactive components** of Marijuana.

Narcotic Drugs and Psychoactive Substances Act, 1985

- It **bans the commercial cultivation of cannabis**.
- The bar **does not apply to an edible preparation called bhang**, which is allowed in some States.

United Nations Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs, 1961

- It is an **international treaty to prohibit production and supply of specific** (nominally narcotic) **drugs** and of drugs with similar effects except under licence for specific purposes, such as medical treatment and research.
- The convention refers to drug addiction as **“a serious evil for the individual [that] is fraught with social and economic danger to mankind”**.

Source: TH