



G-20 Agriculture Meet 2021

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Why in News

Recently, India's Agriculture Minister addressed the **G20** Agriculture meeting virtually.

It is one of the ministerial meetings organised as part of the **G20 Leaders Summit 2021** to be **hosted by Italy** in October 2021.

G20

- **About:**

- It is an **informal group of 19 countries** and the **European Union (EU)**, with representatives of the **International Monetary Fund** and the **World Bank**.
It **does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters**.
- The membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, **representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product**, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.

- **Members:**

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.



Key Points

- **Highlights of the Meet:**
 - Signed a final statement named the **“Florence Sustainability Charter”**.
It will **strengthen cooperation between G20 members and developing countries on food and agriculture** to share knowledge and help developing the internal production capacities best suited to local needs, thus contributing to the resilience and recovery of agriculture and rural communities.
 - **Reaffirmed their intention to reach the goal of zero hunger**, which is also threatened by the consequences of **Covid-19**.
 - Reaffirmed the commitment to achieve food security in the framework of the **three dimensions of sustainability**: economic, social and environmental.

- **India's Stand:**
 - **Focus on Traditional Food:**
 - **Emphasised** on re-introducing **traditional food items including millet**, other nutritious cereals, fruits and vegetables, fish, dairy and organic products in the diet of the people.

Their production has been phenomenal in India in recent years and **India is becoming a destination country for healthy food items.**
 - The **United Nations (UN)** has accepted India's proposal and declared **2023** as the **International Year of Millets** and urged the G20 nations to support the celebration of the millet year to promote nutrition and sustainable agriculture.
 - **Biofortified Food:**

Biofortified varieties, which are the source of a staple diet rich in micronutrients, are being promoted to remove malnutrition.

About **17 such varieties of different crops have been developed** and released for cultivation.
 - **Water Resource:**

India has also taken steps to increase the **optimal use of water resources, create infrastructure for irrigation, conserve soil fertility** with balanced use of fertilizers, and provide connectivity from farms to markets.
 - **Indian Agri-Sector in Covid:**

Indian agriculture has **achieved great success after the country's independence**, and the sector also **remained unaffected even during the Covid pandemic.**
 - **India Resolved to:**
 - Continue working together to achieve the **Poverty Reduction' and 'Zero Hunger Goal as part of the sustainable development goals.**
 - Cooperate in research and development as well as exchange of best practices to enhance productivity.
- **Related Indian Initiatives:**
 - The **'Per Drop-More Crop' scheme** for irrigation and **'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana'** for organic farming is being successfully implemented.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** is being implemented to provide insurance cover for the farmers.
 - To address the **malnutrition** problem, India is running the world's largest food-based safety net programme, which includes the **Public Distribution System** and the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme.**
 - The government is also providing an annual income support of Rs 6,000 under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).**

Source: IE