



Environment and Agricultural Ministerial Meeting: BRICS

Why in News

Recently, **the [BRICS \(Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa\)](#) Environment and Agriculture Ministers' Meeting was held.**

- BRICS brings together the major emerging economies of the world, hosting 41% of the world population, contributing 24% of the world [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#) and over 16% share in world trade.
- **India** is the **chair of the BRICS grouping** for 2021.

Key Points

- **7th BRICS Environment Ministerial 2021:**
 - **Area of Focus:**
 - [Air pollution](#), [circular economy](#), combating marine plastic litter and [single use plastic](#) product pollution, forestry, including the prevention and mitigation of [forest fires](#), and conservation of **biodiversity**.
 - Agreed to focus on cooperation on [waste management](#).
 - As the efficient management of wastes including recovery of energy and secondary raw materials is crucial for resource conservation, healthy ecosystem and quality of life of the people.
 - **New Delhi Statement on Environment was Adopted:**
 - It is aimed at **furthering the spirit of Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus** in Environment among the BRICS Nations, especially ahead of the [COP15 Biodiversity meet](#) and [COP26 \(Climate Change\)](#) later this year.
 - **BRICS Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Dialogue:**
 - India has launched this initiative to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and best practices on waste management, resource efficiency and circular economy.
 - The countries will also engage in dialogues on construction, agriculture, solar, [biofuels](#), packaging, [electronic wastes](#), food, water and textiles.
 - **India's Stand:**
 - Acknowledged that the [Climate Change 2021 Report: IPCC](#) may be the **last signal for taking concrete collective global actions** against global environmental and climate challenges.
 - Actions should be guided by **equity, national priorities and circumstances**, and the principles of **"Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)"**.
 - CBDR-RC is a principle within the [United Nations Framework](#)

[Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) that acknowledges the different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change.

▪ **11th Meeting of Agriculture Ministers of BRICS:**

◦ **Theme:**

- BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security.

◦ **BRICS Agricultural Research Platform:**

- It has been **set up in India** for strengthening the cooperation in the field of agricultural research & innovations amongst the BRICS member States.
- It has been **developed by India**.
- The platform as a **global platform for science-led agriculture** will help in addressing the issues of world hunger, undernutrition, poverty and inequality by promoting sustainable agricultural development through strategic cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors.

◦ **Action Plan of 2021-24 for Agricultural Cooperation Adopted:**

- Focuses on the themes of food security, welfare of farmers, conservation of agrobiodiversity, resilience of food and agricultural production systems, promotion of digital agricultural solutions etc.

◦ **India's Stand:**

- Highlighted its efforts in **preserving the agro-biodiversity by :**
 - Establishing and maintaining the [National Gene banks](#) for plants, animals, fish, insects and agriculturally important microorganisms at different respective Bureaus.
 - Actively promoting the [diversification of its agri-food systems](#) through countrywide programs such as pulses, oilseeds, horticultural crops, [National Bamboo Mission](#) and the recently launched [National Palm Oil Mission](#).
- The **objective of these programs** is to increase the income of the farmers along with providing diversification in both farm and plate.

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