



G-20 Agriculture Meet 2021

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](#)

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