



## Animal Disease Free Zones

**For Prelims:** Animal Disease Free Zones, Animal Husbandry, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), National Animal Disease Control Programme, Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis, National Livestock Mission Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

**For Mains:** Economics of Animal-Rearing, Increasing Farmers Income

### Why in News?

In order to boost exports of **value-added meat products**, the Government of India has called on stakeholders to work towards the **creation of region-specific animal disease-free zones in the country**.

### What are Animal Disease-Free Zones?

- Animal Disease-free zone means a **clearly defined part of a territory containing an animal subpopulation** with a **distinct health status** with respect to a specific disease for which required **surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade**.

### What is the Need for creating animal disease-free zones?

- **Importance of [Animal Husbandry](#):** Animals are the life support system for our rural economy, they provide sustenance in difficult times and are a great source of nutrition, particularly proteins for the rural folk.
  - Animal Husbandry comes under the mixed farming practices.
  - **[Mixed Farming](#)** is an agricultural system in which a farmer conducts different agricultural practices together, such as cultivating cash crops and rearing livestock.
  - The aim is to increase income through different sources and to complement land and labour demands across the year.
- **Agricultural Exports:** India is the largest exporter of frozen and bovine meat while achieving significant growth in the export of organic honey and fish produce.
- **Promoting International Trade:** According to the **[World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#)**, zoning is a risk management strategy for achieving the progressive control and eradication of animal diseases, and for providing guarantees for international trade.

### What are related Initiatives Taken by the Government?

- **[National Animal Disease Control Programme](#)**
  - It aims to control and eradicate **[Foot & Mouth Disease \(FMD\) and Brucellosis](#)** amongst the livestock in the country.
- **[National Livestock Mission](#)**
  - It envisages **setting up animal farms for their rearing in order to produce good**

quality meat and thereby quality value-added products.

- **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund**
  - This is the first major fund launched by the government that includes a diverse set of stakeholders such as **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO)**, private dairy players, individual entrepreneurs, and non-profits within its ambit.
- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**
  - APEDA was established by the Government of India under the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985**.
  - It promotes **exports of agriculture and animal fresh and processed products by setting standards and specifications**, suggesting and supporting improvement in packaging, marketing strategies, facilitating the development of products for export, setting export zones, and organising

## Way Forward

- **Sikkim Model:** The model of **Sikkim being declared as an organic state** should be emulated all across the states.
- **Improving Quality of Veterinary Services:** The implementation and effectiveness of zoning rely on the quality of Veterinary Services.
- **International Standardisation:** To benefit from external markets, there are ways of **speeding up bilateral recognition of disease-free zones**, such as bilateral veterinary agreements or free trade agreements that establish clear areas and procedures to be implemented by trading partner countries.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q. Which of the following is the chief characteristic of 'mixed farming'?** (2012)

- (a) Cultivation of both cash crops and food crops
- (b) Cultivation of two or more crops in the same field
- (c) Rearing of animals and cultivation of crops together
- (d) None of the above

**Ans (c)**

**Source:** [PIB](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/animal-disease-free-zones>