



# Horticulture Cluster Development Programme

**For Prelims:** Horticulture, Cluster Development Programme, Related Initiatives

**For Mains:** Horticulture Sector of India, Cluster Development Programme & Its Significance, Government's Initiatives for Horticulture

## Why in News?

Recently, a meeting was held by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for the **Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP)**.

- Overall **development of horticulture in the country** would be focused with the help of the implementation of the CDP.
- Horticulture is the branch of plant agriculture dealing with garden crops, generally fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants.

## What is the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme?

### ▪ About:

- It is a **central sector programme** aimed at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.
- Horticulture cluster is a **regional/geographical concentration** of targeted horticulture crops.

### ▪ Implementation:

- It is implemented by the **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**.
- The states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Manipur, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand etc. will also be included in the list of 55 clusters, identified with their focus/main crops.

- Earlier, in pilot phase, it was implemented in 12 clusters covering 11 States/UTs.

### ▪ Objectives:

- The CDP aims to **improve exports of targeted crops by about 20% and create cluster-specific brands** to enhance the competitiveness of cluster crops.
- To **address all major issues** related to the Indian horticulture sector including pre-production, production, post-harvest management, logistics, marketing and branding.
- To **leverage geographical specialisation** and promote integrated and market-led development of horticulture clusters.
- To **converge with other initiatives of the Government** such as the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**.
- A lot of investment will also **come in the horticulture sector through CDP**.

### ▪ Significance:

- Cluster Development Programme has a **great potential to transform the entire horticulture ecosystem** by creating **last-mile connectivity** with the use of **multimodal transport for efficient and timely evacuation** and transportation of horticulture

produce.

## What is the Status of the Horticulture Sector in India?

### ▪ Status:

- India is the **second-largest producer of horticulture crops** globally.
  - India is a leader in producing fruits like Mango, Banana, Pomegranate, Sapota, Acid Lime and Aonla.
- In 2021-22, Uttar Pradesh followed by Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal were the top states in horticulture production.
  - West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh were the top States in vegetable production.
  - Maharashtra followed by Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh were the top states in fruit production.
- The area under horticulture crops increased to **27.74 million hectares in 2021-22**, and produced around 341.63 million tonnes.

### ▪ Initiatives for Horticulture:

- **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture:**
  - **MIDH** is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables and other areas.
  - Under MIDH, **Government of India contributes 60% of the total outlay** for developmental programmes in all the states (**except North Eastern and Himalayan states where GOI contributes 90%**) & 40% is contributed by State governments.
  - **It has five major schemes on horticulture:**
    - National Horticulture Mission (NHM)
    - Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH)
    - National Horticulture Board (NHB)
    - Coconut Development Board (CDB) &
    - Central Institute of Horticulture (CIH), Nagalan

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

**Q.** Assess the role of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers? (2018)

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

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