



Clean Plant Programme

Why in News?

At **India's first international Agri Hackathon in Pune**, the Union government unveiled the 'Clean Plant Programme', aimed at providing **disease-free horticultural plants** to farmers, beginning with Maharashtra.

- The initiative **aims to boost agricultural productivity by offering healthy plants** for crops like grapes, oranges, and pomegranates.

Key Points

▪ About the Agri Hackathon:

- **International Agri Hackathon** served as the largest platform for fostering dialogue and **accelerating [innovation in agriculture](#)**.
- The event was **jointly organised by** the Department of Agriculture, **Government of Maharashtra**, along with **other institutions of Pune**.
- **Objective:**
 - It addresses the **challenges posed by a growing population, [climate change](#), and agricultural uncertainties**, envisioning a future where agriculture can transform lives.
 - It seeks to harness the potential of innovation to **build sustainable and scalable agricultural solutions**.

▪ About the Clean Plant Programme:

- The programme will be **launched with an investment of Rs 300 crore**, with a focus on Maharashtra, where the programme will start in Pune (**Grapes**), Nagpur (**Oranges**), and Solapur (**Pomegranates**).
 - **Maharashtra** has emerged as the **[horticulture hub of India](#)**, driven by consistent government efforts and the innovative spirit of its farmers.
- **Key Features of the Programme:**
 - **Disease-Free Plants:** Farmers will receive plants that are free from diseases, increasing **productivity** and reducing crop loss.
 - **Financial Support for Nurseries:** The government will provide funding for large and medium-sized nurseries to support the production of disease-free seedlings.
 - Large nurseries will receive Rs 3 crore, while medium-sized ones will receive Rs 1.5 crore.
 - **Production of Seedlings:** The initiative aims to produce 8 crore disease-free seedlings annually, benefiting farmers across the nation.
- India aims to **collaborate with countries like Israel and the Netherlands** to enhance the Programme's impact.

▪ Lab to Land Initiative:

- To **bridge the gap between research and practice**, the government has launched the 'Lab to Land' initiative to directly connect agricultural scientists with farmers.
- Under this 16,000 agricultural scientists across the country will **work closely with farmers and agriculture departments** to transfer critical knowledge on seed production, disease diagnosis, and agricultural best practices.



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The banner features a light beige background with a red border at the bottom. It includes illustrations of Indian architectural landmarks like the Taj Mahal and the Gateway of India. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font, with key details highlighted in red.

Status of Horticulture Sector in India

- As of 2023, India is the **2nd largest producer of fruits and vegetables.**
- The Indian horticulture sector contributes about **33%** to the agriculture **Gross Value Added (GVA)** making a very significant contribution to the Indian economy.
- **Government Initiatives Related to Horticulture:**
 - [Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture \(MIDH\)](#)
 - [National Horticulture Mission \(NHM\)](#)
 - [Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States \(HMNEH\)](#)
 - [Central Institute for Horticulture \(CIH\)](#)
 - [Horticulture Cluster Development Programme](#)

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