



Horticulture Cluster Development Programme

Why in News

The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has launched the **Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP)** in order to **promote the export of horticultural produce**.

- **Horticulture** is the branch of plant agriculture dealing with garden crops, generally fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants.

Key Points

▪ Cluster Development Programme (CDP):

◦ 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 will be implemented by the **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**.
- In a **pilot phase**, the programme will be **implemented in 12 horticulture clusters out of the total 53 clusters** selected for the programme.
- These clusters will be implemented through **Cluster Development Agencies (CDAs)** which are appointed on the recommendations of the respective State/UT Government.

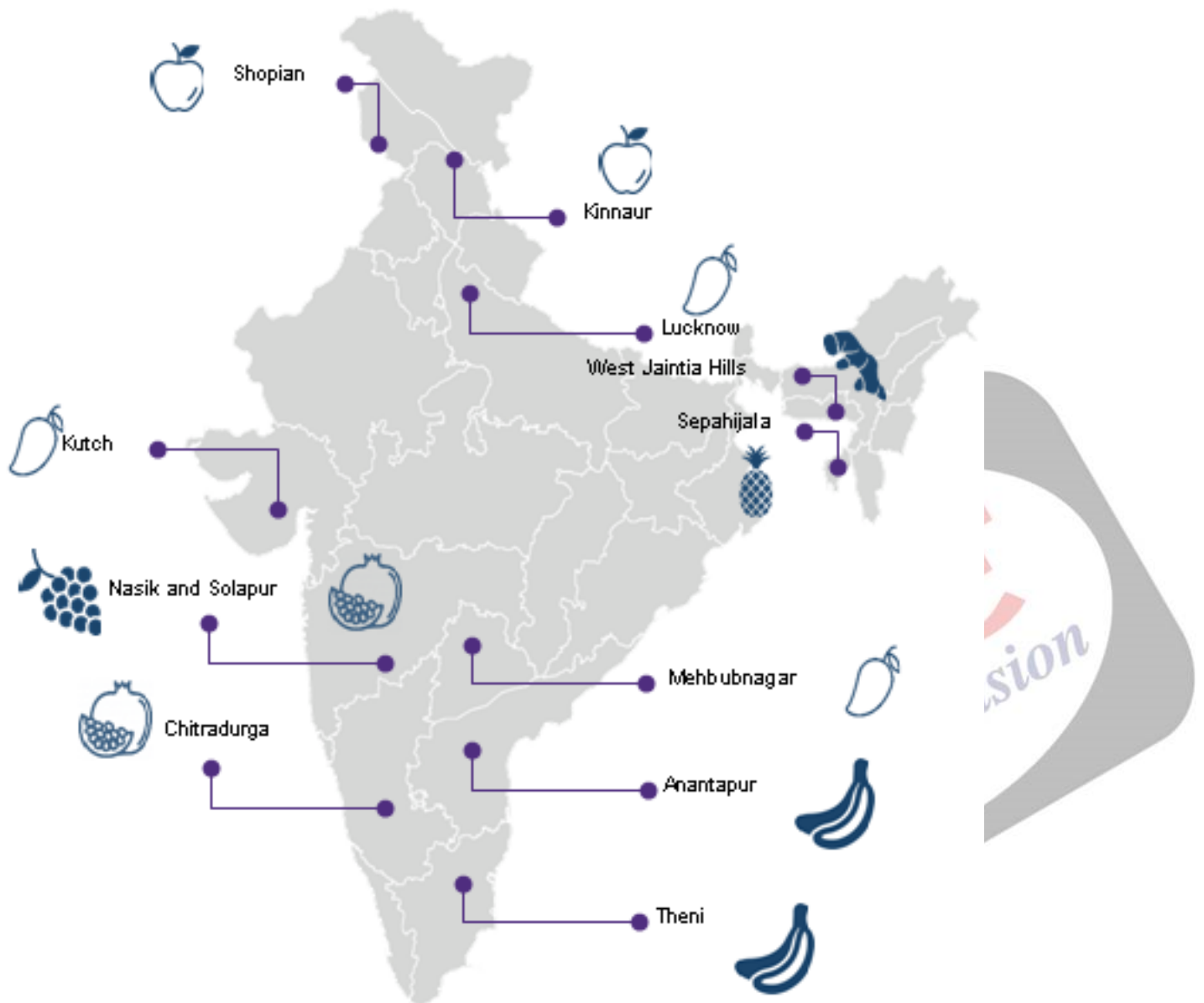
◦ Objectives:

- 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**.

◦ Expected Benefit:

- The programme will benefit about **10 lakh farmers** and is expected to attract **an investment of Rs. 10,000 crore** when implemented in all the 53 clusters.

Identified Crops and Clusters in the Pilot Phase



▪ Horticulture Sector in India:

- **India is the second-largest producer of horticulture crops globally**, accounting for approximately 12% of the world's production of fruits and vegetables.
 - India is a leader in producing fruits like Mango, Banana, Pomegranate, Sapota, Acid Lime and Aonla.
- In 2018-19, **Andhra Pradesh followed by Maharashtra and UP** were the **top states in fruit production**.
 - **West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh** were the **top States in vegetable production**.
- The **area under horticulture crops increased to 25.5 million hectare in 2018-19**, which is 20% of the total area under foodgrain, and produced 314 million tonnes.
- **Recent steps taken for this sector:**
 - The Ministry has provided an enhanced allocation of **Rs. 2250 Crore** for the year **2021-22** for **'Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture' (MIDH)**.

- **MIDH** is a [Centrally Sponsored Scheme](#) for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo.

Way Forward

- There is tremendous scope for enhancing the productivity of Indian horticulture which is imperative to cater to the **country's estimated demand of 650 Million MT of fruits and vegetables by the year 2050.**
- Some of the new initiatives like focus on planting material production, cluster development programme, credit push through [Agri Infra Fund](#), formation and promotion of [FPOs \(Farmers Producer Organisations\)](#) are the right steps in this direction.

[Source: PIB](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/horticulture-cluster-development-programme>

