STRATEGY FOR NEW INDIA @75 – DRIVERS PART 7

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4) Sectional Tests & Comprehensive Mocks with All India Ranking System
5) We Check Your English Papers. English is the most scoring in Phase 2.
6) This document will help you to cover NITI AAYOG INDIA@75 from the exam point of view.
7) A video series* is also made on NITI AAYOG INDIA @75 to help you out with the preparation.
   *You can watch those videos for free on our Youtube channel.
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- Agriculture for Nabard
- Test of Reasoning
- English Language
- General Awareness
- Static GK
- Committees Since Independence
- Quantitative Aptitude
- Union Budget
- Economic Survey
- Coverage of Yojana magazine
- Coverage of Kurukshetra Magazine
- Latest State of Forest Report
- Government Schemes
- 10 Comprehensive Mocks for Phase 1

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7. Doubling Farmers’ Income (III): Value Chain & Rural Infrastructure

OBJECTIVES:
- Creation of modern rural infrastructure and an integrated value chain system.
- Leverage the value chain to boost India’s exports of food products.
- Create occupational diversification and quality employment opportunities.

CURRENT SITUATION:

(I) Currently running schemes:
- The SAMPADA scheme: aims to modernizing processing activities and decreasing agri-waste.
- ‘Operation Green’: aims to promote farmer producer organizations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management of such operations.
- The SAUBHAGYA scheme: aims to household electrification.
- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY): aims to full village electrification and accelerating the pace of connecting habitations.
- The electronic national agriculture market (e-NAM) 2016: aims to create a unified national market. So far, 479 mandis across 14 states and UTs have been integrated on the platform.

(II) Required efforts areas:
- **Agriculture infrastructure:**
  - such as rural markets, warehouses, cold chain, farm machinery hubs and public irrigation need upgradation.
The recent 2018-19 budget announcement to develop the existing 22,000 Rural Periodic Markets (RPMs) into Gramin Agriculture Markets (GRAMs) will offer better market access to small and marginal farmers.

- **Inefficient cold chain infrastructure:**
  - Post-harvest losses is estimated at INR 92,561 crore annually as storages are single commodity storages and unevenly distribution of storage among states.
  - Inadequate cold-chain infrastructure hampers India’s food exports. The European Union (EU) issued more rejections and destroyed more consignments.

**CONSTRAINTS:**

- Low public and private investment
- Inequality to acquire land for setting up of market yards
- Lack of finances, manpower and proper facilities in marketing infrastructure
- Poor maintenance and linkages of rural roads
- Lack of separate feeders for supply of power to agriculture and domestic electrification in some states
- Products don’t meet export quality standards due to lack of agriculture best practices. Interventions at the farm or producer level are needed

**THE WAY FORWARD:**

(I) **Markets and value chain:**

- **Infrastructure status for agriculture value chains:**
  Warehousing, pack-houses, ripening chambers, and cold storages, including those set up at the village and block level. The budget announcement of developing Gramin Agricultural Markets (GRAMs) will help in it.
- **Link production to processing:** Village level collection centres for fruits and vegetables should be linked to larger processing units.
- **Food processing**: Enhancing food processing industry is needed for value addition in vegetable and fruit crops. The government has now shifted its attention to promoting “agripreneurs” for rapid modernization of the agriculture sector.

- **Warehouse upgradation**: The Department of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare (DACFW) should draw up guidelines to promote warehouse based post-harvest loans and e-NWR (negotiable warehouse receipts) trading.

- **Convergence in government initiatives**: Coordination is needed between the initiatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Processing, and Commerce to develop effective procurement linkages, processing facilities, retail chains and export activity.

- **Strengthen railway freight operations**: Railway freight operations should be strengthened through temperature-controlled containers and loading and unloading facilities to reduce post-harvest losses and connect land-locked states to export markets.

(II) **Rural roads, electricity and mechanization**:

- Maintenance of rural roads through women SHGs has been experimented with by some states (Uttarakhand for example) and has been found to be very promising. This model could be replicated by other states.

- Agriculture connections and electricity supply feeders should be separated from domestic rural electricity supply.

- Small farm implement mechanization hubs for every 1000 ha and big machinery hubs for every 5000 ha of cultivated area by private entrepreneurs are required.

(III) **Export enablers**:

- **Develop export-oriented clusters**: The Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been championing the
development of export-oriented clusters with common infrastructure facilities.

- **Increase the number of testing laboratories:** It is essential for health certificates for exports. Private laboratories should be extended to fill the shortage.

- **Augment cargo handling facilities at airports:** APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority) has suggested augmenting the capacity of the Ahmedabad Air Cargo Complex and Mumbai Airport to handle agricultural cargo.

- **Regulatory frameworks to combat rejections in export markets:** Regulatory frameworks regarding use of pesticides, growth hormones, and antibiotics for marine produce need to be developed and implemented effectively to curb the rejection rate in the export market.
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