

components of e-Agriculture where technology aids farmers with better information and alternatives. It uses a host of technologies like remote sensing, computer simulation, assessment of speed and direction of wind, soil quality assays, crop yield predictions and marketing using IT.

- Direct connect through e-commerce has facilitated large number of artisans agro-based small enterprises in rural areas. Women's livelihood is being facilitated amongst the weavers' community in the north eastern states by marketing their product through the internet medium.
- Central, state governments and private organisations have taken ICT measures for agriculture extension which include ITC- e-choupal, Kisan Kerala, Aaqua, Rice knowledge management portal, e-krishi, Mahindra Kisan Mitra, IFFCO Agri-portal, Village knowledge centers etc.

Though lots of problems like feasibility of connectivity in rural areas, cost involved in ensuring services, need for basic computer literacy and literacy hinders the fast development of e-Agriculture, it will definitely be an engine of growth in Rural India once the initial hiccups are overcome. With the new extension of ITC initiatives like Krishivihar, i-Kisan, e-kutir, e-Sagoo, ICT models- AGROWEB, Agropedia, AgrInnovate, etc. Indian agriculture has come to a long way and established several records in terms of production and productivity. It has the potential to transform agriculture into a better prospect in the wake of climate change and decrease in the cultivable land.

5. What do you understand by multi-level planning? Discuss its advantages and limitations in India's context.

Approach

1. Explain the concept of Multi level planning (30 words)
2. Explain on advantage of MLP in India (50 words)
3. Highlight limitations of MLP (50 words)
4. Conclusion (20 words)

Hints:

Multi-level planning (MLP) is a process of planning for a variety of regions which together form a system and subordinate sub-system. Here lower level planning provides bases for higher level planning. Similarly higher-level regional plans provide frame-work for lower-level areal plans. Multi-level planning opposed to centralized planning is an exercise where local institutions are actively involved not only at the implementation level but MLP is a more integrative effort that seeks to involve all hierarchies of administrative, geographical, political and regional levels in planning process.

Advantage of MLP in India:

- It seeks to involve active participation of the lower hierarchical levels in information generation, data collection, policy suggestion, plan implementation & monitoring of all developmental activities. Thus, integrating local aspirations in national planning.
- In such plans there is direct participation of the people in the planning process. MLP therefore is a bottom up approach. Thus responsibility to make it successful lies with people also. They are active participants rather than passive recipients.