

- However, current commitments are not enough to keep global warming below 2°C.
- The European Commission has decided to increase the EU's climate target from the current 40% reduction in emissions to 50 or 55%.
- However, the German government has not yet agreed on which of the two figures it would support.
- The Commission is currently conducting a public consultation, looking to propose a new target in September.

12

The New Green Revolution: A Just Transition to Climate-Smart Crops

Context: The agriculture sector's massive greenhouse gas emissions pose a threat to India's green transition. There is an urgent need for a transition to climate-smart crops.

What are Climate Smart Crops?

- These crops include quality seeds and planting materials of well-adapted varieties.
- They are resistance to drought, salinity and flooding.
- They are the most common climate-related traits for which crop varieties are bred.
 - ▶ Tubers, pulses and millets are some of the 'climate smart crops'.
- These crops are important for the livelihoods and nutrition of poor farmers, especially in tropical and sub-tropical countries.
- These crops avoid the imprudent deployment of farming inputs, residue management, soil disturbance and misguided irrigation strategies employed to improve harvests.
- Staple food crops such as rice and wheat are source of GHG and are prone to climate change. However, Climate Smart Crops are resistant to such phenomenon.

Contribution of Agriculture Sector to GHG

- Contribution to GHG: Agriculture contributes 16 percent of the total greenhouse gas emissions in the country, second only to the energy sector.
- In September 2020, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released a report that says that the food production line of the world accounts for about a quarter (21 to 37 percent) of GHG emitted every year due to human activities.

How does the agriculture sector contribute to GHG?

- Most farm-related emissions come in the form of methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O).
- Cattle belching (CH₄) and the addition of natural or synthetic fertilizers and wastes to soils (N₂O) represent the largest sources, making up 65 percent of agricultural emissions globally.
- Smaller sources include manure management, rice cultivation, field burning of crop residues, and fuel use on farms.

13

India's forests and coal mining

Context: Giving a boost to the mining sector, the government in its announcements intended to revive the economy following the pandemic. But a boost to mining brings with it associated troubles such as land conflicts, run-ins with communities and an impact on the environment.