



- The modernisation and redevelopment of stations will be conducted primarily through Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited, Rail Land Development Authority and other central government entities.
- The PPP basis is under the Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer model. The land lease period has increased to 99 years for residential development around the railway stations as part of the project, and commercial development to 60 years.
- To add to the viability of this project, all clearances will be single-window, and plans will be approved in consultation with urban local bodies and authorities to ensure a collaborative exercise.

11. AGRICULTURE

What accounts for the rise in the consumption of groundnut in the country, especially in the Saurashtra region? Explain

KEY POINTS

- One example of “consumer-facing”, as opposed to “institution-consumed”, oils faring well in lockdown/unlockdown India is groundnut.
- In Gujarat especially, people had to switch entirely to eating at home and they chose groundnut oil, which is their traditional cooking medium.

Behind the comeback

- One reason, of course, is prices expected to remain firm, supported by rising home consumption of the oil post-Covid and steady export demand for the kernels.
- In Saurashtra, where the major groundnut-cultivating districts are Rajkot, Junagadh, Jamnagar and Devbhoomi Dwarka, the competing crop is basically cotton.
- Saurashtra farmers this time have sown just 14.87 lh area under cotton, as against the 16.50 lh under groundnut. The latter has clearly gained at the former's expense.
- For farmers, groundnut can be harvested in 90-110 days by October-November, whereas a full cotton crop cycle can take up to 180 days over 3-4 pickings. The shorter duration gives the flexibility to plant wheat, chana (chickpea), jeera (cumin) or coriander during the rabi winter-spring season.
- Not only are groundnut cultivation costs lower, their stems are very good fodder for cattle and buffaloes. Yields per hectare, at 10-20 quintals, are more or less similar both for kapas (raw un-ginned cotton) and groundnut-in-shell. Yields of the fibre crop have actually fallen in the last 5-6 years due to repeated pink bollworm attacks.
- Gujarat is, incidentally, also the country's largest cotton producer. But procurement of kapas through the Cotton Corporation of India hasn't been on the scale of groundnut purchases undertaken by Nafed.

Primary agricultural credit society needs to be propped up for better agricultural development in the country. Examine

KEY POINTS

- Primary Agricultural Credit Society is the first building block of the century-old cooperative banking system of India.
- Each PACS was designed to be a village-level credit society into which the farmers brought in share capital, deposits and provided loans to each other.