



Consequences

- Increased productivity of food crops.
- Diversified food grains reach poor households thus reducing malnutrition and stunting of children.
- Optimal utilisation of resources.

Integration of rural farming with the latest innovations in technology will result in great transformation of dairy industry in the country. Substantiate

KEY POINTS

- The dairy sector assumes a great deal of significance the socio-cultural affinity towards cows and dairy products, and as an industry, it employs more than 70 million farmers.

Farming and technology

- Crossbreeding has taken off in a big way because of the advancements in reproductive technologies like In vitro fertilization (IVF), embryo transfer process, and artificial insemination.
- The NAIP (Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme) Phase-I launched, every animal in the programme was assigned a 12-digit unique identification number under the Pashu Aadhar scheme to ensure accuracy in tracking.
- NAIP Phase-II was initiated in 2020 with an allocation of ₹ 1,090 crore covering 50,000 animals per district
- Under the programme, 9.06 crore artificial inseminations will be performed and is expected to lead to the birth of 1.5 crore high yielding female calves.
- Consequently, 18 million tonnes of additional milk will be produced as average productivity will be enhanced from 1,800kg per animal per year to 3,000kg per animal per year.
- Until now, artificial insemination (AI) technology has been the most used method in India, but its success hinges upon accuracy in heat detection and timely insemination.
- IVF has become a helpful tool in crossbreeding as under this technology enables greater genetic diversity from a single cow.

For better credit distribution to farmers, Reserve Bank of India need to relook India's agriculture banking model. Do you agree with this view? Comment

KEY POINTS

- Credit is about risk distribution, expertise to improve availability and margins.
- Governments adopted a policy of pushing credit into 'priority sector' with sluggish outcome and diversion of credit.
- Instead of pushing and forcing PSBs to lend to the rural sector, the policy has to make lending attractive, and the only way is to allow specialised agriculture banks.