

to our forex reserve.

4. Coarse cereals can be grown in **harsh climate**, thereby can bear the ill-effects of climate change being witnessed by Indian agriculture.
5. **Their cultivation is less input intensive**. Thus would help reduce the burden on fertile soil and underground water.
6. They provide **additional income to marginal farmers** and acts as insurance in case of crop failures.

3. Coarse grains can be integrated in our cropping pattern

1. **Multi-cropping** and **Inter-cropping** practises. Cereal grains can be **grown along with input intensive crops** like rice and wheat. This would help maintain **soil fertility** and can provide assured income to farmers in case their main crop fails.
 2. Incentives like **MSP** (Minimum Support Prices) which is **currently restricted to non-coarse cereals** can be extended to coarse cereals.
 3. **Increasing share of these crops** in **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)** and in Mid-day meal scheme.
 4. **Removing supply chain inefficiency** and **marketing bottlenecks** for coarse grains and creating **robust procurement** mechanism for coarse cereals.
 5. Initial support to farmers for cultivating coarse grains in forms of **subsidy**.
 6. Research and development is required to develop **HYV seeds** for coarse grains. The **extension services** through **KVKs** must be provided to farmers.
 7. Creating market for the coarse grains by change in **consumer choice**, new food habits through **advertisements**, awareness campaigns, social media etc. Education and awareness among people about the benefits of nutri-cereals.
 8. **Promoting food processing industries** that use coarse grains as input.
 9. **International cooperation** like in pulses to promote their cultivation abroad and import it to India to meet demand if need be.
4. The initiatives must be implemented effectively keeping in mind the importance of coarse grains in not only ensuring **nutritional security** but also **promoting balanced regional growth** and safeguarding farmers'