Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme

Prelims – *Current events of National and International Importance| Economic and Social sector initiatives.*

Why in News?

Recently, The Government has undertaken a mid-term evaluation of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme.

- **Launch –** It is a ***Central Sector scheme*** launched in 2020.
- **Nodal ministry –** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- **Expanded in -** August 28, 2024, to expand scope & inclusivity
- **Objectives –** To strengthen agricultural infrastructure nationwide and provide robust support to the farming community.
- To broaden the scope of eligible projects, introduce additional supportive measures, and foster a more comprehensive agrarian infrastructure ecosystem.



- **Impact – Infrastructure Development** - It has facilitated the development of infrastructure by establishing warehouses, cold storage facilities, and silos across the country.
- **Storage Capacity** - A total additional storage capacity of 500 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) has been created under the scheme.

- **Crop Preservation** - It enhanced crop preservation to save large quantities of food grains and horticultural produce annually.
- **Progress – *Agro Economic Research Centre (AERC),*** Pune evaluated the scheme's progress and performance, gathered and the scheme's positive impact.
    - Increased farmers income
    - Increased agriculture storage capacity
    - Growth of post-harvest and value addition infrastructure for agriculture produce.
    - Generation of employment
    - Encouraging agriculture entrepreneurship.

References

1. PIB| Agricultural Infrastructure Fund
2. PIB| Evaluation of AIF

Related News – AIF Significance

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