Clean Plant Programme

Why in news?

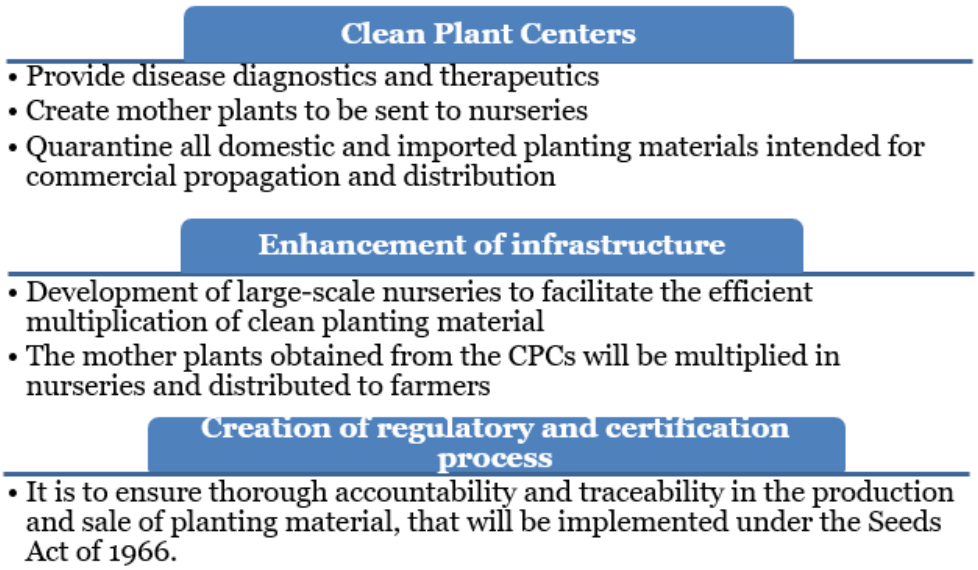
The Union Cabinet recently has approved the Clean Plant Programme (CPP) under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.

What is Clean Plant Program?

- **Clean Plant Program (CPP)** – It is a program to address critical issues in horticulture by providing access to high-quality, virus free planting material.
- **Launch** – It was first announced in Union Finance interim Budget speech in February 2023.
- **Aim** – It aims to *increase the yield and productivity of horticulture* crops in India and to enhance the quality of fruit crops across the nation.

> *Horticulture consist of fruits, vegetables, and flowers, spices mushroom, medicinal and aromatic plants. India is the **2nd** largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world after China.*

- **Nodal Ministry** - Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Finances** - Budget allocation under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- **Integration with MIDH** - The CPP complements with the ongoing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
- **Implementation** – It will be implemented by the *National Horticulture Board* in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- **Core components**
    - Development of nine Clean Plant Centers (CPCs)
    - Enhancement of infrastructure
    - Creation of regulatory and certification process



Clean Plant Centers		
• The CPCs will be established in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for specific horticulture crops. • Each CPC will be linked to a different ICAR institute.		
CPC Location	**Crop**	**Linked ICAR Institute**
Pune, Maharastra	Grapes	National Research Center for Grapes, Pune,
Bikaner, Rajasthan	Citrus fruits	Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner.
Nagpur , Maharastra	Citrus fruits	Central Citrus Research Institute, Nagpur.
Solapur, Maharastra	Pomegranate	National Research Center on Pomegranate – Solapur.
Bengaluru, Karnataka	Mango, Guava, Dragon Fruit and Avocado	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru.
Srinagar , Jammu and Kashmir	Temperate Fruits - Apple, Almond, Walnuts, etc.	Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Srinagar
Mukteshwar, Uttarkhand	Temperate Fruits - Apple, Almond, Walnuts, etc.	Regional Station of CITH, Mukteshwar.
East India	Tropical and Subtropical Plants	East India Horticulture center in West Bengal and Jharkhand.
Lucknow	Mango, Guava, Litchi	Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture , Lucknow.

What are the benefits of CPP?

Benefits of CPP

Farmers	• **Increased Crop Yields** - By providing virus-free, superior planting material, it aims to boost crop yields. • **Enhanced Income Opportunities** - Higher quality produce will lead to better market prices and income for farmers
Nurseries	• **Propagation** – Streamlined certification processes and infrastructure support will help nurseries in efficiently producing clean planting material. • **Sustainability** – Improved facilities will foster growth and sustainability in the nursery sector
Consumers	• **Superior Produce** – It ensures that consumers receive virus-free fruits but also enhanced in taste, appearance, and nutritional value. • **Affordable Cost** – Iwill significantly reduce the cost of fruits by increasing the production.
Exports	• **Global Market Strengthening** – With higher-quality, disease-free fruits, India will enhance its position as a leading global exporter. • Thereby expanding market opportunities and increasing its share in the international fruit trade.
Inclusion	• **Farmers** – It aims to provide affordable access to clean plant material for all farmers, regardless of their landholding size or socioeconomic status. • **Women Farmers** - The programme will also actively engage women farmers, ensuring their participation in planning, resource access, training, and decision-making processes. • **Regional growth** – CPP will address the diverse agro-climatic conditions across India by developing region-specific clean plant varieties and technologies.
Alignment with Broader Initiatives	• It aligns with broader initiatives such as Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and the One Health approach.

What are its significances?

- **Reduce Fruit Import** - India is a major importer and exporter of fresh fruits.
- In the financial year 2023-24, India exported fresh fruits worth $1.15 billion, while it imported fruits worth $2.73 billion.
- **Reduce import of plant materials** - With the rising consumption of foreign and exotics fruits such as avocado and blueberry , demand has specifically increased for their planting materials .
- **Address import bottlenecks** - At present, imported plants having to be kept in quarantine for two years.
- The CPCs will cut this period down to six months.
- Thus CPP can bolster India's position in the global fruit market.

Quick Facts

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

• It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
• **Launched in** - 2014-15.
• **Aim** – For holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo.
• **Key Features**
- **Plantation Infrastructure Development** - Establishing nurseries and tissue culture units to produce quality seed and planting material.
- **Area Expansion** - Creating new orchards and gardens for various crops, with or without integration (e.g., drip irrigation).
- **Rejuvenation -** Revitalizing old, unproductive orchards.
- **Protected Cultivation** - Setting up poly-houses, greenhouses, shade net houses, and walk-in tunnels, along with micro irrigation facilities.
- **Promotion of Organic Farming** - Encouraging organic practices, certification, and establishing vermi compost units.
- **Creation of Water Resources** – Developing community tanks, on-farm ponds, and water harvesting systems.
- **Pollination Support through Beekeeping** - Producing bee colonies, honey bee hives, and related equipment.
- **Horticulture Mechanization** - Providing power tillers, tractors, and plant protection equipment.
- **Human Resource Development** - Conducting awareness programs, farmer training, exposure visits, and study tours.
- **Post-Harvest Management (PHM) Infrastructure** - Setting up cold storage, pack houses, ripening chambers, reefer vehicles, processing units, and food processing facilities in North Eastern States.
- **Marketing Infrastructure** - Developing static and mobile vending carts, retail outlets, rural markets, wholesale markets, and direct market platforms.

References

1. Indian Express | Centre’s Clean Plant Program
2. PIB | Transforming Horticulture with CPP

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