CROPIC (Collection of Real Time Observations & Photo of Crops)

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Why in News?

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare plans to launch CROPIC.

- It is a study to ***gather crop information*** using field photographs and AI-based models.
- Crops will be photographed 4-5 times during their cycle, and the pictures will be analysed to assess their health and potential mid-season losses.
- **Seasons -** The study will be carried out for two seasons, kharif 2025 and rabi 2025-26.
- CROPIC is an initiative under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- **Purpose** - It has a dual purpose of monitoring crop health and stress, and automation of crop loss assessment and payment of claims to affected farmers.
- The study envisages the collection of field photographs during the crop season using the CROPIC mobile app.
    - **Developed by -** Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- The photographs from the field will be crowd-sourced directly from farmers.
- Then, they will be analysed for information including crop type, crop stage, crop damage and its extent.
- CROPIC will use an AI-based cloud platform for photo analysis and information extraction, and a web-based dashboard for visualisation.
- **Timeline -** CROPIC will be rolled out initially in at least 50 districts per season.
- These districts will be well distributed in different agro-climatic zones, covering the 3 major notified crops in each district for each season, initially.

Notified crops are those covered under insurance schemes like PMFBY.

- **Benefits -** It will assist in creating a rich directory of crop signatures, and will also lead to automation of loss assessment and compensation to eligible farmers under PMFBY.
- This initiative is part of digital innovations in agriculture for fostering financial resilience.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

• It is a crop insurance scheme designed to protect farmers against crop losses due to various natural calamities, pests, and diseases.
• **Aim** - To provide financial support, stabilize farmer income, and encourage the adoption of modern agricultural practices.
• **Key Features -** PMFBY provides insurance coverage for a wide range of crops, including rice, wheat, pulses, and commercial crops.
• The scheme offers low premium rates, with the government bearing the balance premium to ensure full insurance coverage.
• PMFBY utilizes technology like satellite imagery and remote sensing for crop area estimation, yield estimation, and loss assessment.
• The scheme streamlines the claims process, making it easier for farmers to access insurance benefits.

Reference

[The Indian Express | What is CROPIC?]

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