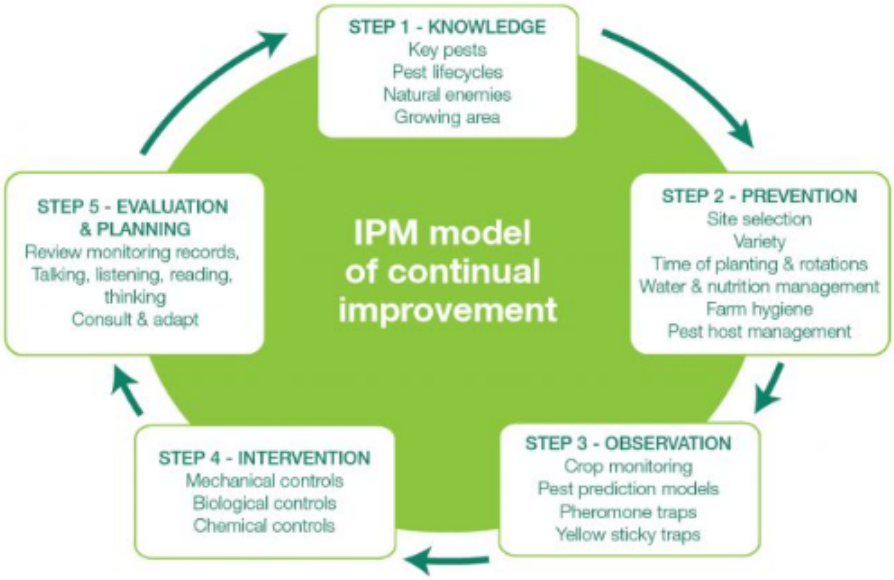
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Why in news?

The recent launch of Kisan Kavach marks a significant advancement in protecting farmers from the harmful effects of pesticide exposure.

- **IPM** – It is a sustainable approach to managing pests by *combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools* in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks.
- **Different from organic practices** – IPM doesn't discourage spraying chemicals unlike organic, but rather promotes using them only when necessary.



- **Monitoring** – Keep tracks of the pests and their potential damage and is helpful in selecting the best possible combinations of the pest management methods.
- **Pest resistant varieties** – Breeding for pest resistance is a continuous process.
- **Cultural pest control** – It includes crop production practices that make crop environment less susceptible to pests.
- Cultural controls are based on pest biology and development.
    - **For examples** – Crop rotation, cover crop, row and plant spacing, planting and harvesting dates, destruction of old crop debris, etc.,
- **Mechanical control** – These are based on the knowledge of pest behaviour.
    - **For Examples** – Hand picking, installation of bird perches, mulching and installation of traps.
- **Biological control** – It include *augmentation and conservation of natural enemies of pests* such as insect predators, parasitoids, pathogen and weed feeders.
- Here, *native natural enemy populations are conserved* and non-native agents are

released with utmost caution.

- **Chemical control** – Pesticides are used to keep the pest population below economically damaging levels when the pests cannot be controlled by other means.

IPM initiatives in India
• IPM was declared as an official *Ministerial Policy in 1985.* • There are *35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers* (CIPMCs) in over 28 states and 2 UTs. • National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (*NMAET-Plant Protection & Plant Quarantine*). • Strengthening and Modernization Pest Management Approach in India (*SMPMA*) - It is a season long activity which is confined in 14 weekly sittings in form of FFS in a village to popularize IPM. • Training programme through Kisan vigyan Kendra about IPM

According to Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Centre for Integrated Pest Management around 3-5% of India's total cultivated area is under IPM.

References

1. Government of Assam | Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
2. PIB | Bharat's First Anti-Pesticide Bodysuit

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