International Year of the Woman Farmer

Prelims – *Sustainable development| Current event of national and international importance*

Why in news?

UN Declares 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer.

- The **UN General Assembly** has declared **2026** as the *International Year of the Woman Farmer*, with **over 100 countries co-sponsoring** the resolution.
- **Aim** – To recognize women's essential role in agriculture and highlight the challenges they face such as land ownership, market access, and financial inclusion.
- The **2026 International Year of the Woman Farmer** offers a historic chance to:
  - Champion **resilient and inclusive agriculture**.
  - Strengthen **women's role in food systems**.
  - Align agricultural development with **gender equality and sustainability goals**.

National Food Security Mission: Allocates 30% of its budget specifically for women farmers in several states.

Key Contributions of Women in Agriculture

- Women contribute to **60–80%** of food production in developing countries.
- They are responsible for **nearly 50% of the global food supply**.
- In South Asia, women account for 39% of agricultural labour.
- In India, about 80% of economically active women work in agriculture, yet:
  - **Only 14%** own land; **NFHS data** shows an even lower rate of **8.3%**.
  - This lack of ownership **limits access to credit**, technologies, and formal institutions.

Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) focuses on skill development and resource access for women farmers.

Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation provides 50–80% subsidies on machinery for women.

Quick Facts

• **ENACT** – Enhancing Climate Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities through Nature-based Solutions and Gender Transformative Approaches.
• Implemented in **Nagaon, Assam** by **WFP and Government of Assam**;
• **Funded by** – **Norway**.
• **Features**:
  - Weekly **climate advisories via phone** to **300+ farmers** in **17 villages**.
  - **Climate Adaptation Information Centres** enable video training, meetings, and tech-based knowledge dissemination.
  - Promotes **flood-tolerant seeds**, **smart seed production**, **diversified livelihoods**, and **market linkages**.
• Agricultural departments, rural missions, meteorological departments, and agriculture universities.

Reference

The Hindu| Empowering women in agriculture for food security

