Niti Aayog on Farmer's Income

Why in news?

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Irrigated farmland in the country must **increase by 19 per cent and availability of quality seeds by 167 per cent** if the Centre wants to double farmers' real income by 2022-23, according to a plan devised by NITI Aayog.

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Doubling the farmer's income:

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- The base year for above said calculation is **2015-16**.
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- The Centre has started discussions with stakeholders to devise a roadmap for **doubling farmers' real incomes by 2022-23.**
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- A 2012-13 NSSO survey showed the **nominal income** of farmers usually **doubled every six years**.
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- It pegged the average income at Rs 6,426 per month in 2012-13 against Rs 2,115 per month in 2002-03.
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- The Centre now wants to double farmers' real income.
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What the plan says?

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- The plan says unless efficiency is achieved, the Centre will need to increase NPK fertiliser availability by 38 per cent to 36 million tonnes by 2021-22.
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- It also talks of the power supply needed on farms, intensity of crops and

how much land will be needed for high-value crops.
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- Till now, most of the discussion on doubling farmers' incomes has been theoretical.
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- The Aayog has suggested that instead of crop-specific advice, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) divide farmland into clusters and suggest comprehensive packages for growth of farming in individual areas.
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- This could include horticulture, livestock and alternative sources of income.
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- The Aayog has also suggested reforming agriculture marketing, speedier adoption of a modern land lease law, private participation in direct purchase of farm produce and modern storage facilities.
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What is the Action Plan?

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- Area under irrigation should be increased by **19% by 2022-23** to 110.4-mn hectares.
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- Availability of quality seed should increase by over 167% to around 8-million tonnes.
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- Unless efficiency is improved, India would need to up its NPK supplies by 39% to 36-mn tonnes.
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- ICAR should start giving comprehensive and exhaustive advisories for the entire farm and not just crop specific advisories.
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Source: Business Standard

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