Odisha’s Samrudhi

Why in News?

The Odisha government launched its new State Agricultural Policy (SAP) 2020-SAMRUDHI that focuses on profitability for farmers.

What is Samrudhi?

- Samrudhi is focused on the social and economic well-being of farmers, sharecroppers and landless agriculture households.
- It aims to actualise the untapped potential of agriculture, while ensuring growth process is environmentally, economically and technologically inclusive.
- It is based on an **8-pillar strategy** focused on simultaneous reforms.

What is the 8-pillar strategy?

- The policy lays emphasis on **diversification**, **market linkages** and use of **technology**.
- It suggests mechanisms to orient governance reforms towards **farmer-centricity**, which is in alignment with its flagship programmes.
- It recommends the creation of **agriculture production clusters**.
- It paves the way for the creation of an agro-ecological map, which will help in identify an ideal cropping pattern.
- The policy also suggests that these clusters should be linked to the market aggressively by removing all the existing barriers.
- **Innovative market reforms** like the eNAM portal, Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAM), creation of market information system for disseminating current and forecasted prices have been laid down.
- Special focus has been given to the **adoption of model acts** like the Model Contract Farming Act, etc, with suitable changes necessary for its implementation in Odisha.
- The policy also emphasises development of **warehousing** and **quality testing infrastructure** for better marketing of the crops.
- The agriculture policy pushes for widespread usage of new-age technology to increase the quality of farming and farm products.

What sectors does Samrudhi want to develop?

- It provides recommendations for developing the livestock and fisheries, as they have contributed the most to the growth of farmer incomes.
- For livestock, it includes elements like protection of animals from diseases, artificial insemination, conservation of indigenous species and encouraging the private sector to create value chains.
- For fisheries, the focus is on the promotion of inland fisheries and digitisation of Odisha's assets like ponds and lakes.

How was Samrudhi formed?

- The process followed for the creation of Samrudhi has been participative with the involvement of various government departments, policy experts, NGOs working with Odisha.
- To create the policy, relevant data for the last 15 years was analysed and specific opportunity areas for policy interventions were identified.
- This policy is a time-bound, action-oriented document that clearly lists outcome targets the state should achieve over the next five years.

Source: The Financial Express

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