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UPSC MAINS ANSWER WRITING

Q. How does the ^{India} Digital Ecosystem of Agriculture will improve the efficiency of agricultural sector in the country? Explain.

Ans. Government has launched an initiative called India Digital Ecosystem for Agriculture (IDEA) that would place the farmer in the centre of the agriculture ecosystem leveraging open digital technologies.

Importance of digital Ecosystem of agriculture is as follows:-

- (i) It will include farmers digitised land records and information from existing schemes like PM Kisan, Soil Health cards, PM Fasal Bima Yojna etc.
- (ii) The scheme aims to develop "evidence based" policy for the agriculture sector, driven by big-data and analytics and powered by information technology.
- (iii) It also aims to create Agristack that would serve as a foundation to build innovative agri-focused solutions using emerging technologies.
- (iv) Land records database is to be cross-linked with Aadhaar to create an unique PID or

Farmer's ID.

- (i) By Farmer's ID, farmers can access virtually the online universe of a farmer's activities.
- (ii) The government is hoping that e-governance will help it to achieve the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022.
- (iii) National farmers' database which is being built by Microsoft under the aegis of Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DDA FW).
- (iv) But some concerns over data privacy in the absence of a data protection law.
- (v) No legal recognition of land tenancy agreement in India.
- (vi) Leaves out the tenant farmers who comprise about 12% of agricultural households.
- (vii) Doesn't solve the problem of women where major portion of landholdings are women.
- In the end we can conclude data privacy and digital divide difference in the country, government should focus on it.