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Ques. How does the <sup>India</sup> digital India ecosystem of agriculture will improve the efficiency of agriculture sector in the country? Explain.

Ans. The <sup>do</sup> India digital ecosystem of Agriculture will set up an "agristack" which will enable government, start-ups, farmers to utilise the digital infrastructure and avail the benefits of agricultural interventions ~~the~~ at single platform and making the whole ecosystem cashless paperless for delivery services.

It would also create a National farmers database to incorporate all information of farmers, their landholdings and the government available and availed by them. It can be accessed through a unique farmer ID linked with Aadhar (FID). This can counter corruption and fake beneficiaries issues.

The project is in line with the government's flagship "Digital India" Programme and aim of Doubleing Farmers income by 2022.

It has involves signing of MoUs with private entities like Microsoft, Patanjali etc to provide farmers IT solutions

with help of data analytics and information technology and help them to reap maximum agricultural production.

Farmer would be able to access latest technology equipments, easy credits, insurances and markets along with personalised suggestions for crop improvement.

It would also serve them from pest infestation, cattle mismanagement and natural calamities by giving them warning or ~~or~~ alerts.

Nevertheless, it will have to overcome some challenges, such as -

- 1) Data privacy issues due to the absence of protection law
- 2) ~~less~~ Tenants, labourers, sharecroppers etc are not included in databases and will be deprived of benefits.
- 3) Digital Divide needs to leveraged
- 4) Absence of dispute settlement mechanism

Thus, this initiative will be effective enough only after overcoming these serious issues and will bring about the prospective benefits of digitalising the agricultural ecosystem.