

VAID'S ICS LUCKNOW

Daily Answer Writing Programme (DAWP):

Topics-Editorials from the Hindu/ET

(Q of 05/08/2019)

Q. 'What is Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF). Discuss its economic and environmental significance in India?

250 words

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Model answer

Zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) is a method of **chemical-free agriculture** drawing from traditional Indian practices. It uses natural inputs of **marginal or low cost** that can be made by farmer itself using natural substances **like cow dung, cow urine, wrath worms, previous crop residue** etc.

Objectives:

- ✓ ZBNF gives importance to elimination of chemical pesticides & promotion of good organic practices where as conventional farming promotes use of pesticides.
- ✓ It employs water conservation methods which are hardly employed in conventional farming

Economic benefits-

- 1) reduced cost as pesticides and fertilizers were replaced
- 2) **intercropping** is main component of this do if one crop does not fetch farmer either output or price other ones can give him a break even,

3) cost on irrigation too reduced as unlike the previous system this one uses **soil moisture which is retained through natural practices**, best suites dry land or drought areas, no need of farmer to face monsoon vagaries,

4) vast market for organic products & good exports market

Environmental benefits:

- 1) Soil is preserved from acidity, salinity and erosion.
- 2) Excess fertilizers and pesticides leached into water tables leading to **eutrophication, bio accumulation and bio magnification**,
- 3) water logged fields enhanced mosquito and other pests population and this will be checked with ZBNF,

Govt initiatives:

- 1) **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yozana** in budget with 360 crores will provide each farmer 48700 per hectare,
- 2) 100% tax exemption for FPOS who engaged in organic farming in 100 acres
- 3) Andhra Pradesh rolled out an ambitious plan to become **India's first State to practice 100% natural farming by 2024.**

Recently ZBNF introduced in other southern states of **black soils and showing good results.** To double the farmers income by 2022 India needed reforms however farmers income should not be taken for **toss, prior field trail** needed before full pledged implementation of ZBNF.

ZBNF could become a solution to agricultural crisis in India. It can change the traditional farming into a **profitable business.** The governments need to expand it in more villages & states. The recommendations of the **Swaminathan committee** must also be taken into account.

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(Dept. of Content Development)