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Daily PIB summary**Regenerative Agriculture in India**

UPSC Civil Services · 24 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- Ministry of Agriculture highlighted the expansion of sustainable farming systems, including natural farming clusters covering 8.80 lakh hectares as of March 2026.

WHAT IS REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE?

- An outcome-focused farming approach that restores soil health, enhances biodiversity, improves watershed health, and sequesters carbon.
- Integrates practices such as zero/minimal tillage, cover cropping, crop rotation, agroforestry, and biological nutrient management.

KEY COMPONENTS AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

- National Mission on **Natural Farming** promotes chemical-free, bio-input-based agricultural clusters across states.
- Per Drop More Crop scheme under PMKSY expanded micro-irrigation coverage to 109 lakh hectares by May 2026.
- Over 25.89 crore Soil Health Cards have been issued to optimise crop-specific nutrient application.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Mitigates climate risk for small and marginal farmers by reducing input cost vulnerabilities and soil degradation.
- Improves water-use efficiency and ecological resilience against unpredictable rainfall patterns.

KEY TERMS

- **Natural Farming:** A ecological farming system that excludes synthetic chemical inputs and relies on biological processes and local inputs.
- **Soil Health Card:** A field-specific printed report indicating crop-wise recommendations of nutrients and soil amendments needed for farm holdings.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Per Drop More Crop is implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Examine how regenerative farming practices address land degradation while improving climate resilience for smallholders.

KEY DATA

- **Natural Farming Coverage:** 8.80 lakh hectares - Target metric reflecting official transition to chemical-free farming clusters.
- **Per Drop More Crop:** 109 lakh hectares - Durable micro-irrigation expansion metric under PMKSY.

[Official source](#)

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