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Q7

Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by United Nations.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · GS I · 10 marks · World's Physical Geography

Salient features of world's physical geography.

Core demand of the question

- Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by United Nations
- Cover nutrition, soil nitrogen, water, small farms, and food security
- Keep the explanation within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

The UN marked 2016 to highlight pulses as food and as a farming solution.

Dal supplies protein and micronutrients beside cereals.

Nodules fix nitrogen and spare fertiliser in rotations.

Many pulses suit rainfed land and catch-crop slots.

Smallholders gain if seed, price, and storage match the crop's public value.

Flow diagram

IYP 2016 -> Protein micronutrients

IYP 2016 -> Nitrogen fixation

IYP 2016 -> Low water dryland

Protein micronutrients -> Food security

Nitrogen fixation -> Food security

Low water dryland -> Food security

Conclusion

- Keep the IYP message as more area under pulses on drylands, MSP and procurement that work like wheat, and kitchens that still cook dal.
- Pair cultivation with storage, processing, and research on wilt and drought so the advantages are realised on the field, not only in a UN year.

Pulses earned a UN year because they feed people, feed the soil, and fit water-scarce farms. Cultivation advantages are protein, nitrogen, and resilience; policy has to make those advantages pay the grower.

Facts & figures

International Year of Pulses, 2016

UN observance to promote pulse production, trade, and consumption.

Biological nitrogen fixation

Rhizobium-legume partnership that adds nitrogen to soil without full synthetic doses.

Dal-cereal complementarity

Combined amino acids in a cereal-pulse diet that improve protein quality.

Rainfed pulses

Gram, arhar, and others grown on limited moisture in central and western India.

Catch-crop moong

Short-season green gram fitted between major cereals to use leftover moisture and add nitrogen.

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