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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q3

In the view of the declining average size of land holdings in India which has made agriculture non - viable for a majority of farmers should contract farming and land leasing be promoted in agriculture? critically evaluate the pros and cons.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · GS III · 12 marks · Crops, Irrigation and Marketing

Major crops - cropping patterns in various parts of the country; different types of irrigation and irrigation systems; storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Average holding

Agriculture **Census 2010-11** put India's average operational holding near 1.15 hectares, with most farmers in the marginal class.

Model APMC Act 2003

Union model law that asked States to permit private markets, direct purchase and contract farming.

Contract farming

A pre-harvest agreement on offtake, quality and often price, usually with a processor or organised buyer.

Informal tenancy

Widespread unrecorded leases; the tiller often cannot prove cultivation for bank credit.

FPO

Farmer Producer Organisation: aggregator so smallholders can sign a contract as a group rather than as isolated plots.

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