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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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Q14

What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilize the yield of the crop in the system?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · GS III · 15 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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Rice-wheat system

Dominant irrigated rotation of Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh after the Green Revolution.

Groundwater stress

Kharif paddy in the north-west is a main driver of falling water tables and rising pumping cost.

Residue burning

Combine-harvested paddy straw is burned to free the field for wheat, stripping soil carbon and adding winter pollution.

Pulses in rotation

Fix nitrogen and break cereal pest cycles; they diversify protein supply as well as the field.

Direct-seeded rice

Sowing rice without puddling to save water and protect soil structure for the wheat crop that follows.

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