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Q13

**Assess the role of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers? (250 Words, 15 Marks).**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · 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.

**Core demand of the question**

- Assess the National Horticulture Mission's role in production, productivity, and farm income
- Say how far income has actually risen, and recommend what still needs fixing

**Revision summary**

NHM (2005-06), later under **MIDH**, pushed horticulture area, planting material, and some post-harvest assets.

National fruit and vegetable output and some cluster yields rose clearly.

Income rose where markets, drip, and processing exist, and failed in glut seasons for tomato, onion, and potato.

Post-harvest loss means extra tonnes are not extra cash.

Policy should score sold, graded produce and FPO cold chain, not only area.

**Flow diagram**

NHM MIDH MIDH -> Area seed drip clusters

Area seed drip clusters -> Higher production productivity

Higher production productivity -> Farm income

Glut loss thin processing -> Farm income

Pack-house FPO cold chain -> Farm income

**Conclusion**

- **Shift NHM/MIDH from** area targets **to** sold, graded produce: cluster pack-houses, e-NAM quality assaying, and processing parks tied to FPOs.
- Expand **price stabilisation** and onion-potato-tomato storage as public infrastructure, not only private cold rooms for the large farmer.
- Certify nurseries strictly; fake plants are an income killer.
- Align **crop insurance, power, and drip** so protected cultivation is not a subsidy trap.

- Measure success as **real farm income and reduced loss**, not only as national horticulture tonnage.

NHM helped India grow more fruit, vegetables, and spices and raised productivity in clusters that already had markets and drip. It has only partly succeeded in raising farmer income, because glut, loss, and weak processing still sit between the field and the purse. The next step is markets and cold chain, not another hectare target.

## Facts & figures

### NHM, 2005-06

Centrally sponsored mission to expand horticulture production, productivity, and post-harvest infrastructure.

### MIDH

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (from 2014) that folded NHM and related horticulture schemes.

### National Horticulture Board

Body that supports cold chain, ripening, and market-oriented horticulture projects.

### Horticulture vs foodgrain tonnage

In several recent years India's horticulture output in tonnes has exceeded foodgrain output, showing the production success of the shift.

### Perishable loss

A large share of fruit and vegetable value is lost after harvest without pack-houses, cold chain, and fast markets.

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