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Q97

Which one of the following best describes the main objective of 'Seed Village Concept'? (a) Encouraging the farmers to use their own farm seeds and discouraging them to buy the seeds from others (b) Involving the farmers for training in quality seed production and thereby to make available quality seeds to others at appropriate time and affordable cost (c) Earmarking some villages exclusively for the production of certified seeds (d) Identifying the entrepreneurs in villages and providing them technology and finance to set up seed companies Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Economy

Indian economy, budget, schemes - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

The Seed Village Concept does not tell farmers to shun purchased seed and rely only on unimproved farm-saved seed. That would undermine quality. This option is not the key.

(b) Official key

A seed village trains farmers in quality seed production so that locally produced, affordable, timely seed is available to other farmers. That is the official objective. This option is the official key.

(c)

The scheme does not fence entire villages as exclusive certified-seed factories in the rigid sense of this option. The idea is farmer participation in seed production, not a legal monopoly village. This option is therefore wrong.

(d)

Creating village seed companies through entrepreneurs is not the main stated objective of the Seed Village Concept. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (b) involving farmers for training in quality seed production so quality seed is available on time at affordable cost. The Ministry of Agriculture's seed village idea is a farmer-centred supply of improved seed. It is not autarky in farm-saved seed, not a sealed certified-only village, and not primarily a start-up subsidy for seed firms. Only (b) states the objective.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Seed Village Programme

Department of Agriculture cooperation scheme for local seed production

Foundation / certified seed

Classes of seed under Indian seed law and certification

Seed replacement rate

Policy goal that seed villages help raise

PPV&FR Act

Plant Variety Protection and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001; farmers' seed rights

NSC / SSCs

National and State seed corporations; complementary to seed villages

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