Science & Technology · GS - III

Explain the factors influencing the decision of the farmers on the selection of high value crops in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - III	Science & Technology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

High-value crops, horticulture, profitability, agro-climatic conditions, irrigation, market access, price risk, infrastructure, perishability, technology

Model Answer

Introduction

High-value crops such as fruits, vegetables, spices, flowers and medicinal plants can generate higher returns per hectare than conventional food grains, but their adoption depends on multiple economic and ecological factors.

1. Major factors

1. Agro-climatic suitability: Soil, rainfall, temperature and water availability determine crop viability.
2. Expected profitability: Higher prices, productivity and net returns encourage diversification.
3. Market access: Proximity to urban markets, processors and exporters reduces transaction costs.
4. Price stability: Farmers prefer crops with predictable returns and assured buyers.
5. Infrastructure: Cold storage, grading, processing and refrigerated transport are crucial because many high-value crops are perishable.
6. Credit and insurance: Access to institutional credit and crop insurance reduces investment and production risks.
7. Technology: Quality planting material, micro-irrigation, protected cultivation and precision farming enhance productivity.

8. Farm size and labour: Labour-intensive horticulture may favour regions with abundant labour.

Conclusion

Farmers' decisions therefore reflect a combination of profitability, risk and resource availability. Expanding cold chains, market linkages, irrigation, insurance and farmer-producer organisations can accelerate profitable crop diversification.

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