Indian Economy · GS - III

How Indian agriculture has been transformed from food scarcity to food surplus level? Explain the various government policies implemented for diversification of Indian agriculture.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2026	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Green Revolution, HYV seeds, irrigation, fertilisers, MSP, procurement, PDS, food surplus, horticulture, pulses, oilseeds, millets, crop diversification

Model Answer

India’s transition from chronic food shortages to food surplus resulted from a combination of technological change, state support and institutional reforms. The Green Revolution introduced high-yielding varieties, irrigation, fertilisers, pesticides and improved farm practices. MSP, public procurement, buffer stocks and the PDS created incentives for production while strengthening food availability.

The transformation is reflected in foodgrain production, which increased from 265 million tonnes in 2013–14 to 357.7 million tonnes in 2024–25. Horticulture production also rose from 277.4 million tonnes to 369.1 million tonnes during the same period.

However, cereal-centric growth created concerns regarding groundwater depletion, soil degradation, nutritional imbalance and regional concentration. Consequently, diversification policies increasingly focus on high-value and resource-efficient crops.

Major measures include:

1. Crop Diversification Programme under PM-RKVY to shift paddy areas towards pulses, oilseeds and nutri-cereals.

2. MIDH to promote horticulture and value addition.
3. National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseeds to increase domestic oilseed production.
4. Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses to raise pulse production.
5. MSP and PM-AASHA support for remunerative returns in pulses and oilseeds.
6. Promotion of FPOs, micro-irrigation, food processing and agricultural infrastructure.

Thus, Indian agriculture must move from merely ensuring calorie security to achieving nutritional, ecological and income security through region-specific diversification.

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