Geography · GS - I

Discuss the factors for localisation of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Agricultural raw materials; irrigation; Green Revolution; transport connectivity; markets; cold-chain infrastructure; capital and technology; labour; government support; industrial clusters

Model Answer

Introduction

North-West India, particularly Punjab, Haryana and parts of Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh, has developed important agro-based food processing industries because of its agricultural production, infrastructure and market access.

Factors Behind Localisation

- **Raw-material availability:** Wheat, rice, milk, fruits and vegetables provide inputs for flour milling, rice processing, dairy products and food preservation.
- **Irrigation and agricultural productivity:** Canal irrigation, tube wells and Green Revolution technologies increased the availability of marketable agricultural surpluses.
- **Transport connectivity:** Roads, railways and links to major consumption centres facilitate the movement of raw materials and finished goods.
- **Market proximity:** Large urban centres, including Delhi and Chandigarh, create demand for processed foods and dairy products.
- **Cold-chain facilities:** Refrigerated storage and logistics support the processing of perishable commodities.

- **Entrepreneurship and capital:** Established agricultural markets, cooperative institutions and private investment encourage food-processing enterprises.
- **Government support:** Agricultural procurement, food-processing schemes and industrial policies can support investment and infrastructure development.

Challenges

Seasonal supply, groundwater depletion, crop-residue management and inadequate processing facilities in some areas constrain sustainable expansion.

Conclusion

Agro-based food processing in North-West India reflects the interaction of agricultural surplus, irrigation, infrastructure, markets and investment. Diversification, efficient water use and modern storage facilities can strengthen the sector while generating rural employment and reducing post-harvest losses.

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