Geography · GS - I

Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by United Nations.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Protein security; soil fertility; nitrogen fixation; crop diversification; water efficiency; sustainable agriculture

Model Answer

Introduction

The United Nations declared 2016 the International Year of Pulses to raise awareness about their nutritional importance and contribution to sustainable agriculture.

Advantages of Pulse Cultivation

- **Nutritional security:** Pulses provide affordable plant-based protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals.
- **Soil fertility:** Leguminous pulses fix atmospheric nitrogen through symbiotic bacteria, improving soil health.
- **Lower fertiliser requirement:** Nitrogen fixation can reduce dependence on chemical nitrogen fertilisers.
- **Water efficiency:** Several pulse varieties require less water than water-intensive crops such as paddy.
- **Crop diversification:** Pulses fit well into crop rotations and intercropping systems, reducing dependence on cereals.
- **Climate resilience:** Suitable varieties can be cultivated in relatively dry conditions.
- **Farmers' income:** Pulses diversify farm earnings and may improve productivity in subsequent crops.

Conclusion

Pulses contribute to nutrition, soil restoration and sustainable farming. Promoting quality seeds, assured procurement, research and efficient storage can increase pulse production while strengthening food and ecological security.

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