Society & Social Justice · GS - II

How does climate change increase occupational health risks for food-system workers? Discuss measures to protect vulnerable workers.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/10/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Heat stress, floods, droughts, pesticides, informal employment, occupational safety, social security, climate adaptation.

Model Answer

Introduction:

Food-system workers, including farmers, fishers, food-processing employees and delivery workers, are essential to food security. Climate change and hazardous workplace conditions increasingly threaten their health and livelihoods.

Major challenges:

1. Extreme heat: Increases dehydration, heatstroke and kidney-related risks.
2. Extreme weather: Floods, droughts and storms disrupt livelihoods and expose workers to physical hazards.
3. Chemical exposure: Pesticides and toxic substances can cause poisoning and long-term health complications.
4. Labour inequality: Informal workers often lack protective equipment, healthcare and adequate social security.

Measures required:

- Establish heat-action plans, drinking-water facilities, shade and mandatory rest breaks.

1. Strengthen pesticide regulation, safe handling practices and protective equipment.
2. Improve labour inspections and enforce occupational safety standards.
3. Extend health insurance, social security and emergency income support to vulnerable workers.
4. Promote climate-resilient agriculture and worker awareness programmes.

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Conclusion:

Protecting food-system workers requires integrating climate adaptation, occupational health and labour rights into food and agricultural policies.

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