Indian Economy · GS - III

Examine how natural farming and laboratory-based quality assurance can contribute to sustainable agriculture and improved farmer incomes in India. Identify the major challenges in scaling up such initiatives.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Natural farming; reduced chemical inputs; residue testing; quality assurance; assured procurement; farmer incomes; laboratory infrastructure; market access; certification; sustainable agriculture

Model Answer

Introduction

Natural farming seeks to reduce dependence on synthetic chemical inputs and promote ecologically sustainable agricultural practices. Himachal Pradesh's reported initiative to procure laboratory-certified natural-farming maize in Una combines quality assurance with market support.

Potential Benefits

Laboratory testing can help identify specified chemical residues and improve confidence in agricultural produce. Procurement at a declared price can provide participating farmers with greater market certainty. Such initiatives may encourage sustainable farming practices and create opportunities for differentiated agricultural products.

Major Challenges

Laboratory testing involves costs, time and adequate technical infrastructure. Limited testing facilities may delay procurement, while certification requirements can be difficult for small farmers to navigate. Reliable market

demand, transparent procurement procedures and appropriate price incentives are also necessary for long-term viability.

Way Forward

Governments should strengthen accessible testing facilities, provide farmer training and simplify certification procedures. Transparent sampling, timely reporting and predictable procurement schedules can improve trust. Market linkages and awareness among consumers should complement public procurement programmes.

Conclusion

Combining sustainable farming practices with credible quality testing and assured markets can support agricultural resilience and farmer livelihoods. Effective implementation and accessible infrastructure are essential for scaling up these initiatives.

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