

CLEAN PLANT PROGRAMME: ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: Nagpur included in 'Clean Plant' project to provide disease free seedlings to farmers

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The Union government launched the Clean Plant Programme under MIDH to provide virus-free planting material for crops like grapes, oranges, and pomegranates, enhancing productivity. The initiative, running from 2024 to 2030 with ADB support, will establish Clean Plant Centers and nursery infrastructure.

Clean Plant Programme

Context

- The Union government has launched the Clean Plant Programme specifically targeting grapes, oranges, and pomegranates grown in Maharashtra.

Overview of Clean Plant Programme

- The programme is approved under the **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)**.
- The initiative aims to enhance the availability of high-quality planting material, which is free of viruses and other pathogens.

Objective

- To provide farmers access to **virus-free, high-quality planting material**.
- To promote **higher crop yields** and improved productivity in horticulture.

Key Components

Clean Plant Centers (CPCs)

- Establishment of **nine world-class CPCs** across the country.
- These centers will be equipped with **advanced diagnostic, therapeutic, and tissue culture laboratories**.
- The goal is to produce and distribute clean, healthy planting material at scale.

Certification Framework

- The programme is supported by a **regulatory framework under the Seeds Act, 1966**.
- Certification ensures that planting material meets stringent quality and health standards.

Support for Nurseries

- Development of **large-scale nursery infrastructure** will be undertaken.
- This will enable wide distribution of clean planting material to farmers across the country.

Implementing Agencies

- The programme is led by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- Implementation is carried out through the **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** and the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.

Timeline and Funding

- The programme will be implemented during the period **2024 to 2030**.
- It will receive **50% financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.

India's Horticulture Sector

Definition

- Horticulture is a branch of agriculture focused on **cultivating plants for human use**, including purposes such as food, medicine, and aesthetic value.
- It involves the **cultivation and marketing of vegetables, fruits, flowers, herbs, and ornamental plants**.

Key Areas of Horticulture

Pomology

- The branch of horticulture concerned with **fruit and nut crops**.
- Example crops: apples, mangoes, oranges, grapes, pomegranates.

Olericulture

- Focuses on the **cultivation of vegetables**.
- Example crops: tomatoes, onions, cabbage, cauliflower.

Arboriculture

- The practice of **cultivating, managing, and caring for individual trees and shrubs**.
- It focuses on both **aesthetic and environmental value**.

Ornamental Horticulture

- Divided into two major segments:
 - **Floriculture**: Cultivation of **flowers** for decorative use and commercial sale.

- **Landscape Horticulture:** Designing and maintaining **outdoor spaces** for beautification, public enjoyment, and ecological purposes.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/nagpur-included-in-clean-plant-project-to-provide-disease-free-seedlings-to-farmers/articleshow/121632283.cms>