

Q. Discuss the opportunities & challenges presented by fisheries sector in India, highlighting the key recommendations made by Parliamentary Standing Committee & mention the various initiatives taken by the government for dev. of this sector. (15 marks).

7.5/12

Good data.

Fisheries contribute 5% of agriculture GDP and 0.6% of total GDP. India with its long coastline has shining potentials which if sustainably tapped can bring about prosperity.

Challenges :-

i) Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated fishing: IUU fishing exacerbates overfishing & undermines the sustainability in this sector.

ii) inadequate infrastructure & technology: outdated fishing technologies hinder the efficiency as well as productivity in this sector.

iii) Climate change & environment degradation:

Due to events like El-Niño, La Niña the uncertainty of market increases leading to its unreliability.

from better fish ships, pollution in form of leakages unregulated discharge has led to drastic fall in fish population.

iv) Poor post harvest handling: Results in decreased shelf life and increased loss thereby causing market unpredictability.

v) Socio-economic issues: Lack of adequate credit, insurance & social security contribute to vulnerability of the sector.

Good.

Highlight

for better presentation

Opportunities:

- i) social economic opportunities: in form of jobs, employment and reduced gender disparity
- ii) boost exports: geographical benefits of India can help boost its export in fisheries sector that can contribute to increased GDP and reduce

CAD.

iii) Technology: upgradation of this sector can also reduce the need for advanced technology thereby positively impacting secondary & tertiary sectors of economy.

iv) Strengthening supply chains and cold storage infrastructure.

Key recommendation of standing committee. :-

i) Diversification of fishing in other areas like integrated fish farming, cold water fisheries, riverine fisheries, capture fisheries etc.

ii) Funding inadequately as well as proper utilization of funds is need of the hour.

iii) Scientific and sustainable method like "RE-CIRCULATORY AQUACULTURE SYSTEM" can be used to exponentially increase production.

iv) Committee stressed on the need for inclusiveness in skill development programmes with emphasis on NE & LWE states.

v) It stressed that fishery should be treated at par with agriculture so that fish farmers could get easy access to credit & insurances.

government initiatives :->

- i) Sagar Parikrama initiative : focuses on bridging the gaps in expectation of fishes communities, developing fishing villages, upgrading infrastructure & fish landing centres.
- ii) PM-MSY : -> aims towards the purpose of rural development by utilizing maral resource.
-> main motto : 'Reform, Perform & transform' in fisheries sector
-> modernising fisheries :
 - > new fishing harbours
 - > mechanisation.
 - > cold storage
 - > clean hygienic fish market
- iii) Palk Bay scheme :
-> it centrally sponsored scheme for diversification of fishing boats from Palk Strait & to reduce fishing pressure around the IML.
- iv) Fisheries & aquaculture infra development fund : To boost funding and recognize it as a 'SUNRISE SECTOR'.

WAY FORWARD :->

- i) embracing & implementing AQUAPONICS.
- ii) Enhance to cold storage infrastructure
- iii) streamlining credit facilities for fish farmers.
- iv) Support value addition & diversification

As India is the 3rd largest fish producer & 2nd largest aquaculture producer globally, India shall recognize the significance of fisheries & aquaculture industries to accelerate itself socially, economically as well as globally.