UPSE CSE 2025

VAJIRAM & RAVI

AIR – 793

SURESHOT MAINS TEST SERIES 2025

GENERAL STUDIES Subjective Assessment GS3 Agriculture Test - 8	Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:

NAME: D. Praveen

ADMIN. NO.:

MOBILE NO.:

Time allowed: 90 Minutes

Email:

Submission Date:

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

*There are **TEN** questions printed in **ENGLISH**. All the questions are compulsory.*

The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q6	/15
Q2	/10	Q7	/15
Q3	/10	Q8	/15
Q4	/10	Q9	/15
Q5	/10	Q10	/15
Subtotal	/50	Subtotal	/75
Penalty			
Total marks			/125

Follow these steps to avail the facility of mentoring –

1. Go through the soft copy of your evaluated answer sheet and analyse all the comments and suggestions given.
2. Call **9717565805** between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm to fix your mentoring slot.
3. Please follow the mentoring appointment timings properly.

For Student Only	
Start Time -	End Time -
Mode of Examination	Online ☐ Offline ☐

Receiving date -

Dispatch date -

Parameters		Good	Average	Needs Improvement
Conceptual Understanding				
Contextual Clarity				
Structure	Introduction			
	Body			
	Conclusion			
Meeting the Demand of the Questions				
Value Addition- Use of examples, case studies, Current Affairs Linkage, data etc.				
Presentation-Illustrations, flowcharts, diagrams, etc.				
Language Competency and Flow				
No. of Questions Attempted				

- Adherence to Word Limit: Yes/No
- Subject-Specific Remarks

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions

All the Best

(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

1. Farmer Producer Organisations have emerged as the most preferred institutional mechanism for farmer prosperity. Comment. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

FPOs are legal entities formed Under Company, act 2013. They can be converted in producing companies as well. These FPOs are an Emerging agents of Farmers Empowerment.

FPOs → Preferred institutions for Farmer prosperity

① Increases Bargaining power of Farmers:

FPOs strengthens Collective Bargaining power of farmers

② Improved access to market: For Example Uttarakhand FPOs outreached to global organic products consumers.

③ Enter into private retail market:

Ex: Telangana's FPOs MOU with flipkart to supply rice and Bangles.

(4) Helps in Doubling of Farmers Income and reliable market space.

(5) Enhances Farmers Capality to withstand supply chain shocks.

However, there are few

Challenges in FPOs

- Limited formation
- Politicisation of FPOs
- Inadequate Infrastructure in rural areas to conduct meetings.

Way Forward

- State should extend support to FPOs.
  Ex: 10,000 FPOs formation goal of government.

It is true that If farmers are Empowered, India is empowered. and it is possible through FPOs.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
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Presentation	
Marks:	

2. Digital public infrastructure for agriculture is developed as an interoperable public good. Examine. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

Digital public Infrastructure in Agri culture refers to Digital platforms and applications where data is collected, exchanged and governed.

DPI for Agri is an interoperable public good

① Technology adoption in Agriculture: with better data collection.
ex: Drone Usage, Space data analysis etc

② precision Agriculture: Agriculture productivity can be increased with the DPIs in Agriculture.

③ Agri stack and Agri Dex are steps in right direction to empower farmers and Agri sector.

④ Open-source of data collection and Data Usage in the Country.

However DPIs in Agriculture face certain challenges,

- Inadequate tech Infrastructure
- Low awareness
- ~~Sm~~ slow pace of adoption etc.

Way Forward

① Increased government spending in e-technology for the aid of farmers.

② Ensuring data security and safeguarding farmers for cyber Agri crimes.

Digital India is incomplete without digitalising Agriculture as it forms backbone of the India as it forms backbone of the Country.

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3. Drones are quickly gaining new ground in agriculture. Assess the role of drones in revolutionising traditional agricultural practices. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

Drones are being used by women farmers in tribal remote areas of Chattisgarh recently showing how drones are gaining ground in Agriculture.

Drone/Unmanned Arial vehicles can range from micro size to mammoth size with varied applications.

Role of Drones in Revolutionising Agriculture

① precision farming: Effective Irrigation, Fertilizer use etc.
Ex: It increases farmers Income by 15-20%.

② pesticides spraying: Saves time, improves efficiency and safeguards Farmers health.
Ex: Haryana farmers using drones to spray pesticides.

③ Soil mapping & Sample Collection with the help of drones.

(4) Crop health & Crop productivity estimation can be done by drones.

Challenges in Drone Usage

- Capital intensive for small & Marginal farmers (86% are them)
- Digital Illiteracy of farmers.
- Technology Lag & fatigue
- Loss of livelihood for manual labours.

Way forward

(1) Sustainable Agri mission on Mechanisation needs to be implemented.

(2) Drone Didi scheme where women SHG groups are trained.

Drones are ushering Green revolution 2.0 in the Country and it is onus of all of us to make it sustainable.

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4. Natural Farming is the practice and increasingly the science of working with nature to achieve much more with less. Discuss. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

Natural farming refers to an agri-culture system which is devoid of chemical fertilisers and pesticides developed by Subhash palshikar.

Natural farming system components include Jivamrutha, Bijamru-tha, mulching and others.

Science of working with nature

① It ensures sustainable agriculture systems.
(Eg) Organic state of Sikkim.

② Helps poor small and marginal farmers.
(Eg) Andhra Pradesh farmers are getting benefitted

③ provide nutrient rich foods to the consumers.
(Eg) High demand for these crops in developed nations.

④ promotes Climate-resilient Agricult-ure in the's climate-change affected country.

However, Natural farming systems suffer from certain

Limitations

1. May impact productivity compared traditions HYV seeds.
2. Monsoon failure will have dent on farmers.
3. Threatens food security of the country as 80 crore people are dependant on PDS systems.

Way forward

1. Adopt Natural farming majorly for small & Marginal Land holdings.
2. Government plan to convert 1 crore farmers to natural farming needs to be expedited.

Climate resilient Agriculture systems are need of the hour.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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5. Discuss how large-scale clusters for vegetable production can help in growth of the food processing industry in India? **(10 marks, 150 words)**

Recently Hon'ble Finance Minister of India in budget announced formation of Clusters for vegetable production in the country. They will accelerate the growth of food processing Industry.

Large-scale clusters and Food processing Industry.

① Large scale clusters of vegetable production ensures supply to food processing industries.

Eg production of puree, ketchups gets boosted.

② Reduces Logistics Cost for farmers as well as Industries and accelerates the growth of food processing Industry.

Eg 14% of GDP cost @ logistics.

③ Synergy of Large scale clusters as well as food parks in the various parts of the Country attracts private investments. Eg Mega food parks scheme.

However there are certain Challenges

① Establishment of clusters may take time and technology + water intensive.

② Availability of skilled work force in food processing is less.

③ serpentile growth of food parks. only 22 are operations / 45 announced

Way forward

① expedite the process with active involvement of all stakeholders.

② Increase expenditure on skilling new man-power.

③ Accelerate operationalisation of new Mega food parks.

this sunrising sector needs to be enhanced so as to meet the desired growth rate.

6. The Public Distribution System (PDS) in India is plagued by inefficiencies that undermine its ability to achieve food security objectives. Discuss.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Public distribution system ensures distribution of food grains to 80 crores population of the country ensuring food security of the country.

Inefficiencies in PDS

① Diversions and Black Marketing of food grains.
(Eg): Around 30% of the grains are diverted.

② Inclusion and exclusion errors in the system.

③ Technical glitches in Aadhar enabled PDS systems.

④ Transportation and storage issues with PDS and its induced wastage in the market.

⑤ Over-dependence on few states like punjab and Haryana to collect food grains for PDS.

(6) Identifying new beneficiaries has become a new challenges.

(7) On consumers side - Many reports identified that people reselling PDS grains to rice mills etc.

Way forward

(1) Arrest diversions and black-marketing with GPS enabled technologies.

(2) Digitalise the process through e-POS systems with adequate infrastructure.

(3) Eliminate Inclusion and exclusion errors with timely updation of records.

(4) Pilot Direct benefit transfers like Chandigarh and puducherry can be enrolled.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

(5) Enhance transportation and storage infra with Bharatmala, Agri Infrastructure fund.

(6) Diversify the food grain sourcing states to tackle monsoon and supply-chain shocks.

Food security is one the major priorities in the country of ever ~~evolving~~ increasing populations.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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7. The distribution of livestock resources is more egalitarian than that of land. Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

Acc. to Livestock census, India is the largest country to hold highest no. of Livestock population at around 567 mn population.

Livestock sector contributes to 30% of Agri GDP at 7.3% of growth rate.

Distribution of Livestock resources is more egalitarian than that of Land

① Alleviation of poverty: Livestock provides daily income to poor farmers in terms of selling milk, curd and reduce poverty.

② Empowering women: 70% of the women lives/depends on Livestock management and it empowers them.

③ Livestock ownership provides decentralised ownership rather hectic procedure of land registration etc.

④ Boosts allied sectors especially dairy-sector in the country.

(Eg) Amul model in Gujarath.

⑤ Economic and social mobility for vulnerable sections in the society through distribution of resources.

Challenges in livestock distribution.

- Animal diseases (Eg: ~~Foot~~ & mouth
- Inadequate veterinary hospitals and staff.
- decreased availability of fodder to livestock.
- Poor tend to sell off their animals in times of crisis/urgency. (Eg: Hospital, marriage.

Way forward

① Government efforts to eliminate diseases like Foot & Mouth needs to be strengthened.

② Increase veterinary hospitals and skilled personal through government efforts.

③ Ensure fodder availability to Animals by recycling Agro-waste.

④ Rashtriya Gokul Mission and Gokul Grams needs to be strengthened.

The strength of Livestock sector needs to be harnessed to realise benefits of rural development and women Empowerment & many more.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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8. What are the different land reforms that have been introduced in India since Independence? Assess the role of land reforms in alleviation of poverty.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Land reforms are set of legal and policy efforts to eliminate land inequalities, prevent concentration of wealth (Article-38) and to ensure redistribution of land resources.

Land reforms Since Independence.

1. Abolition of intermediaries act.
2. Tenancy reforms act
3. Land ceiling acts.
4. Bhoodhan and Gramdhaan programmes
5. promoting Cooperative farming.
6. ULPIN and SVAMITVA initiatives for digitalisation of land records.
7. Bhu-dhaar (like aadhar) in Telangana state for Land.

Land reforms in alleviation of poverty

① Out of 20 million families benefitted from Land reforms, majority of them are rural poor families.

② SC, ST, OBC poor and landless families constitute large in number.

③ Land reforms addressed poverty by increasing subsistence agriculture to poor families.

④ Bhoodhan and Gramdhan movement led by Vinobha Bhave distributed around 37 lakh acres of land to rural poor.

Challenges in implementation
- → Nexus b/w political-Bureaucratic and Landlords.
- → Corruption
- → Misuse of Loopholes present in the laws.
- → Eviction of tenants/share croppers

Way forward

① Digitalisation of land records
(Eg): SVAMITVA

② Implement best models like Kerala and west Bengal across the Country.
(Eg): Operation Barga.

③ Evidence-based land distribution to landless poor people in the Country.

As Swaminathan said "Land reforms in India is still an Unfinished Agenda and it must be finished Timely".

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9. While the fertilizer subsidy in India led to some positive impacts, it is also hampering the growth prospects of agriculture. Analyse. (15 marks, 250 words)

Government provides Urea based and non-urea based (DAP) fertilisers subsidies to the farmers. Budget 2021 allocated 1.6 lakh crores to fertiliser subsidy.

Positive Impacts of fertiliser subsidy

① Increased use of fertilisers: Fertilisers usage has been increased across the country.

② Accelerated food grain production as India produces 240 mn tonnes of food grains.

③ Empowers Small and Marginal farmers who consists of 87% of the total farmers.

④ Ensure food security in the country as many people still reel under poverty.

⑤ Lend support to Agriculture sector as it holds 45% of India's working population.

Negative Impact of fertilisers

① Degrades soil health, Environment with overUse.

(Eg) Acidification of soils in punjab and Haryana.

② Overuse of fertilisers led to different mixtures in the Agri-sector.

(Eg) NPK → 4:3.2:1 (recommended)
7:2.8:1 (present composition)

③ Burden on exchequer as it is second highest subsidy after food.

④ Diversion of black marketing of urea to other Industries.

(Eg) Resin Industry.

⑤ Health hazards to farmers and Consumers to due to over-use of fertilisers in the Country.

Way forward

① Reduce use of fertilisers beyond recommendations of ICAR.

② Create awareness to small and marginal farmers.

③ Develop natural farming and organic farming systems.
Eg: Sikkim and Andhra pradesh states.

④ Arrest diversion of Urea through GPS technology.

Rationalisation of fertilisers subsidies is the need of the hour. At the same time build Agri and allied sector infrastructure to empower farmers.

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(Don't write anything in this part)

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10. The persistent shortage of rural credit, both in terms of quantity and quality, remains a significant constraint. Evaluate the role of primary agricultural credit societies in filling this gap. **(15 marks, 250 words)**

67% of India's population still live in rural areas depending upon agri and allied sectors. PACS act as grassroot lenders to all these sectors.

Reasons for shortage of rural credit

- Reduced share of loans to Agri-culture from Corporate banks post LPG reforms.
- Inadequate Landholding documents to small and Marginal farmers (86% of total farmers)
- Exorbitant intrest rates in the rural areas. (10% to 30%)
- Exploitative money-lenders on poor peasants leading to pauperisation.
- Ineffective functioning of Primary Agri credit societies.

(Don't write anything in this part)

Role of PACs in filling the gap

① provide timely loans to farmers and formal source of borrowing for farmers as well.

② Less interest rate which is affordable to farmers and reduces the burden on Small & Marginal farmers.

③ PACs act as a platform where they farmers Collective bargaining power can be increased.

However PACs are also facing certain challenges

- politicisation of Corporate sector
- Allegations of loans to mostly to landlords and influential persons.
- Corporatisation of Cooperative sector.

Way forward

① Delink politics and PACs in rural areas.

② 2 lakh multi-purpose PACs as announced by Min. of Cooperation needs to be expedited.

③ Ensure adequate resources for PACs to increase its ability to lend to farmers.

PACs needs to be strengthen-end to realise the dream of realising Doubling of farmers' Income

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Space for Rough Work

Space for Rough Work