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Topics Covered



- Summary:
 - What is the news?
 - Understanding the Problem
 - Target by FARM Programme:
 - Conclusion:
 - QuizTime:
 - Are you Ready!
- Read the Below Instructions Carefully:
 - Please Rate!
- Mains Questions:
 - Question 1:
 - Model Answer:
 - Question 2:
 - Model Answer:
 - Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:
 - Prelims:
 - Mains:

Summary:

- FARM Programme Initiative: Aims to reduce the toxic impacts of agriculture by managing the use of pesticides and plastics.
- Global Concern: Highlights the environmental and health risks posed by the excessive use of agrochemicals and agricultural plastics.
- Collaborative Effort: Seven countries, led by UNEP and supported by GEF, are working together to promote sustainable farming practices.
- Programme Goals: The five-year plan seeks to prevent pollution, reduce carbon emissions, and protect land through the adoption of low-chemical alternatives.

What is the news?

- The intensifying use of pesticides and plastics in agriculture has emerged as a major global concern. These elements contribute significantly to environmental pollution, harming ecosystems and threatening public health.
- In a noteworthy initiative, **seven countries – Ecuador, India, Kenya, Laos, Philippines, Uruguay, and Vietnam** – have joined forces to address this challenge through the Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Programme (FARM Programme).
- Highly hazardous pesticides and plastic waste from agriculture release toxic persistent organic pollutants into the environment, also harming human health.
- Chemicals play a crucial role in farming, with

nearly 4 billion tons of pesticides and 12 billion kg of agricultural plastics used every year.

- FARM, led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), intends to shift financial incentives towards farmers to adopt low- and non-chemical alternatives, promoting sustainable practices.
- \$379 million initiative will realign financial incentives to prevent the use of harmful inputs in food production.

Understanding the Problem

- **Pesticide Pollution:** Excessive use of pesticides contaminates soil and water, posing risks to human health through food chain contamination. It also disrupts ecological balance by harming beneficial insects and pollinators.
- **Plastic Pollution:** Agricultural practices generate a significant amount of plastic waste, from pesticide containers to mulching films. This plastic pollutes land and water bodies, impacting biodiversity and posing threats to marine life.

The FARM Programme: A Collaborative Approach

The FARM Programme represents a collaborative effort by the aforementioned countries to:

- **Reduce Agrochemical Reliance:** The programme aims to support farmers in adopting sustainable agricultural practices that minimize dependence on

harmful pesticides. This could involve promoting integrated pest management (IPM) techniques and biopesticides.

- **Promote Plastic Waste Management:** The FARM Programme seeks to encourage responsible plastic use in agriculture and develop efficient collection and recycling systems for plastic waste generated from agricultural activities.
- **Capacity Building:** The programme emphasizes capacity building for farmers, agricultural extension workers, and policymakers by providing training and knowledge sharing opportunities on sustainable agricultural practices and waste management techniques.

Target by FARM Programme:

- The five-year programme is projected to prevent over 51,000 tons of hazardous pesticides and over 20,000 tons of plastic waste from being released, while avoiding 35,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions and protecting over 3 million hectares of land from degradation as farms and farmers convert to low-chemical and non-chemical alternatives.

While the FARM Programme holds promise, some challenges need to be considered:

- **Effective Implementation:** Successful implementation on the ground level across diverse

countries with varying agricultural practices will be crucial.

- **Farmer Adoption:** Encouraging farmers to adopt sustainable practices and overcome initial apprehension may require targeted incentives and awareness campaigns.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Securing long-term funding for the programme's activities will be essential for its sustained impact.

Conclusion:

- The FARM Programme signifies a positive step towards tackling a global challenge. By fostering international cooperation, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and encouraging responsible plastic use, the programme holds the potential to create a cleaner and more sustainable future for agriculture. For UPSC aspirants, understanding the FARM Programme's objectives, challenges, and its relevance to various aspects of the syllabus will be beneficial in crafting well-informed and comprehensive answers.



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Are you Ready!

Thank you, Time Out !

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General Studies

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

Read the Below Instructions Carefully:

- Click on - Start Quiz
 - Attempt all questions (You can attempt or leave)
 - After Attempting Last Question.
 - Enter Name & Email
 - Click on - Check Result
 - Scroll down - Check out Solutions too.
- Thank you.

Loading ...



Category: General Studies

The FARM program can be considered a model for addressing other environmental issues because it emphasizes:

- Increased use of technology to replace traditional agricultural practices.
- A focus on capacity building and empowering local communities.
- Reliance on top-down regulations and strict enforcement mechanisms.
- Prioritizing short-term economic gains over long-term environmental sustainability.

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Category: General Studies

Which of the following is NOT a primary objective of the FARM program?

- Promote the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques.
- Encourage research and development of biodegradable alternatives to plastic mulching films.
- Provide financial incentives for farmers to adopt sustainable practices.
- Increase production of chemical pesticides in participating countries.

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Category: General Studies

Which of the following statements best reflects the significance of the FARM program?

- It provides a quick fix to the problem of pesticide pollution in agriculture.
- It promotes a paradigm shift towards sustainable agricultural practices.
- It solely focuses on economic benefits for farmers in developing countries.
- Its impact is limited to the seven countries directly involved in the program.

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Category: General Studies

Consider the following statements regarding the challenges associated with excessive use of chemical pesticides in agriculture:

- I. It disrupts ecosystems and harms beneficial organisms.
- II. It leads to increased soil fertility.
- III. It can cause health risks for consumers.

Select the correct code:

- I and II only
- II and III only
- I and III only
- I, II and III

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Category: General Studies

The effectiveness of the FARM program relies heavily on:

- Increased government regulation of agricultural practices.
- Collaboration and knowledge sharing between participating countries.
- Development of genetically modified crops resistant to pests.
- Large-scale subsidies for chemical companies.

Prev

Finish

Check Rank, Result Now and enter correct email as you will get Solutions in the email as well for future use!

Check the Result

Your score is

0%

Restart quiz

Please Rate!

Send feedback

Mains Questions:

Below Mains Question

Write in Comment Section



Question 1:

***Critically examine the challenges associated with excessive use of chemical pesticides and plastic mulching films in agriculture. How can initiatives like the FARM program help in promoting sustainable agricultural practices?
(250 words)***

Model Answer:

Challenges of excessive pesticide and plastic use in agriculture:

- **Environmental degradation:** Chemical pesticides contaminate soil and water bodies, disrupting ecosystems and harming beneficial organisms. Plastic mulching film, if not disposed of properly, ends up in landfills or waterways, causing pollution and harming wildlife.
- **Human health risks:** Pesticide residues on crops can enter the food chain, posing health risks for

- consumers.
- **Reduced biodiversity:** Excessive pesticide use can kill beneficial insects and pollinators, leading to reduced biodiversity and potential pest resurgence.
 - **Soil health decline:** Overreliance on chemical pesticides can harm soil microbes and fertility, leading to long-term productivity decline.

FARM program and sustainable agriculture:

- **Promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** IPM emphasizes preventive measures, biological controls, and judicious use of pesticides, reducing reliance on chemical solutions.
- **Research and development of alternatives:** The program supports research into alternative pest management techniques and biodegradable mulching films.
- **Farmer education and capacity building:** Training programs equip farmers with the knowledge and skills to implement sustainable practices.
- **Financial incentives:** Shifting financial incentives towards low- and non-chemical alternatives encourages farmers to adopt sustainable practices.

By promoting these strategies, FARM helps farmers transition towards sustainable agriculture, which protects the environment, safeguards human health, and ensures long-term agricultural productivity.

Question 2:

Discuss the role of international cooperation in tackling environmental challenges in agriculture. How can initiatives like FARM serve as a model for addressing other environmental issues?(250 words)

Model Answer:

Importance of international cooperation in agricultural environmental challenges:

- Shared challenges: Environmental issues in agriculture like pesticide pollution and plastic waste transcend national boundaries. International cooperation is crucial for developing and implementing effective solutions.
- Sharing knowledge and expertise: Collaboration allows countries to share best practices, research findings, and technological advancements for sustainable agriculture.
- Financial and technical assistance: Developed nations can provide resources and expertise to support developing countries in adopting sustainable agricultural practices.

FARM program as a model for addressing other environmental challenges:

- Collaborative approach: FARM brings together multiple countries to address a shared challenge. This model can be replicated for other environmental issues like water management,

deforestation, and climate change.

- Focus on capacity building and technology transfer: The program emphasizes farmer education and research & development. This approach can be applied to other issues to empower local communities and promote sustainable solutions.
- Financial incentives for behavior change: FARM utilizes financial incentives to encourage sustainable practices. This approach can be adapted to other environmental issues to motivate positive action.

By demonstrating the effectiveness of international cooperation, knowledge sharing, and financial incentives, FARM serves as a valuable model for tackling other environmental challenges on a global scale.

Remember: These are just sample answers. It's important to further research and refine your responses based on your own understanding and perspective.

Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:



Prelims:

- **General Studies Paper 1: Environment**

Mains:

- **General Studies Paper I (GS Paper I):** Questions related to environmental pollution, particularly in the context of agriculture, can be addressed by highlighting the FARM Programme as an initiative to tackle pesticide and plastic pollution.
- **GS Paper III (Science & Technology):** Candidates can discuss the FARM Programme's potential to promote sustainable agricultural practices and advancements in biopesticides as a technological solution to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides.
- **GS Paper IV (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude):** The collaborative and international nature of the FARM Programme aligns with the theme of global cooperation for tackling environmental challenges. Additionally, the ethical implications of sustainable agriculture and responsible waste management can be discussed. Challenges and the Road Ahead



***Click here to read in
Hindi.***

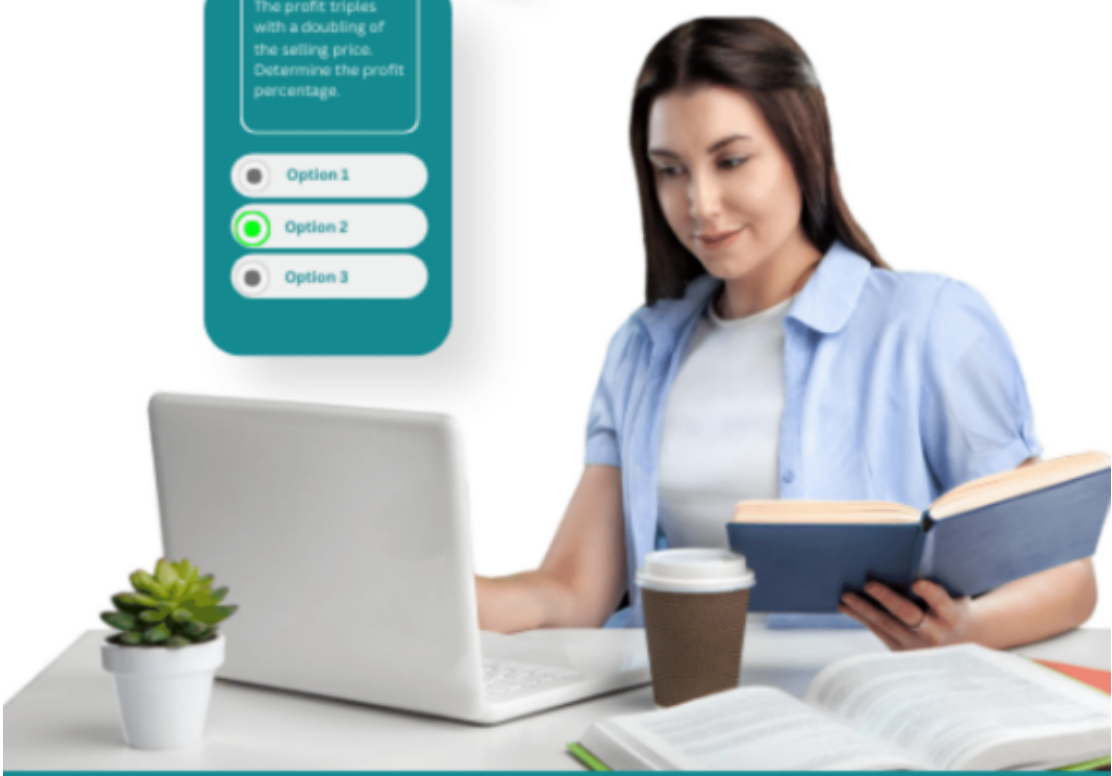
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Quiz Time


The profit triples with a doubling of the selling price. Determine the profit percentage.

- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3



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