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January 13, 2020.

Topic: Agricultural diversification

News:-Ropar farmer sets an example in the state by cultivating strawberries.

- A farmer named Paramjeet Singh has blazed the trail in the farming sector by cultivating strawberries and earning a good income out of them.
- He started strawberry cultivation as a pilot initiative on one acre of land.
- He has claimed to have gained more than ₹3 lakhs of profit from one acre of crop.
- This profit margin can be further increased if proper food processing facilities can be arranged.

About Strawberry Crop:-

- The Strawberry crop is sown in October.

- Its plucking starts in mid – January and goes till mid-May.
- Strawberries are rich in Niacin, Potassium, Magnesium, Vitamin C etc. (They are a rich source of micronutrients).

They are temperate crops, even though they can be grown in subtropical conditions.-

- They need 8 to 12 hours of sunlight for around 10 days.
- Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani in Maharashtra account for a great chunk of Strawberry production.
- In big cities such as Jalandhar and Chandigarh, they are in high demand.
- Also, in high-end hotels, they are supplied.
- Other exotic fruits such as Dragonfruit and Avocado also have a great scope as far as Agricultural diversification in Punjab is concerned.

(Source:- The Tribune)

Topic: Animal Husbandry.

News:- Punjab Government cuts the prices of semen straws to bolster artificial cattle breeding program.

- Artificial insemination is a part of Punjab's breed

improvement program.

- The prices have been slashed up to 80%.
- Due to inflated prices, the cattle breeding program had taken backseat last year.
- As per the statistics, 8 to 10% drop could be seen in the artificial insemination cases both in cows and buffaloes. (Comparing 2018 – 19 with 2017-18).
- The Punjab Livestock Development department Board sells the semen straws to the farmers.
- The semen straw is sold for ₹150 to the Punjab farmers even though it's cost outside the state is ₹15.
- Also, the state quacks are making a huge amount of money by selling cheap semen straws.
- So, this is a welcome step. An integrated livestock mission could be started where the semen, health, disease control, vaccination of bovine, fodder etc activities are managed in an integrated way.


(Source:- The Tribune)

Please visit Regular Quiz Section for Current affairs questions.

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