

Clean Plant Program

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In news—The Union Government is planning to launch an Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program with an outlay of Rs. 2,200 crore.

What is Clean Plant Program?

- It seeks to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops.
- Under this program, **the Centre plans to set up 10 'Clean Plant Centres', on the lines of those in developed countries such as the US, Netherlands and Israel,** to boost domestic production of the selected crops.
- The concept of Clean Plant Centres is unique in itself and does not exist in India.
- **10 centres will be established for fruit crops like apple, walnut, almond,** grapes, mango, pomegranate, among others, with an overall budget of Rs 2,200 crore in the next seven years till 2030.
- The Clean Plant Centres will provide **services of disease diagnostic, therapeutics, multiplying of plants and generation of mother plants.**
- **The centres will be fully funded by the Centre.**
- It will be **implemented in a PPP mode in partnership with research organisations,** agriculture universities and private sector partners.
- **The National Horticulture Board (NHB) will anchor the clean plant programme.**

Demand for imported planting material in India-

- The demand for imported planting material of various fruit plants has risen sharply over the years.
- According to a source, the permissions given by the EXIM committee for import of planting material of fruits during 2018-2020 show that in 2018, 21.44 lakh apple

plants were imported, which increased to 49.57 lakh in 2020.

- Besides, fruit plants of banana, date palm, kiwi, pomegranate, raspberry, strawberry, walnut, winegrape, grape, guava, olive, peach, pear and plum plants are also being imported in the country,