

Horticulture Cluster Development Programme

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In news

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare virtually launched the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP) recently

A brief note on the programme

- In a pilot phase, the programme will be implemented in 12 horticulture clusters out of the total 53 clusters selected for the programme.
- These 12 clusters will be implemented through Cluster Development Agencies (CDAs) which are appointed on the recommendations of the respective State/UT Government.
- A central sector programme implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, **CDP aims at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.**
- The programme will address all major issues related to the Indian horticulture sector including pre-production, production, post-harvest management, logistics, marketing and branding.
- The programme is designed to leverage geographical specialisation and promote integrated and market-led development of horticulture clusters.
- CDP will benefit about 10 lakh farmers and related stakeholders of the value chain.
- The programme is expected to **converge with other initiatives of the Government such as the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund(AIF)**
- AIF is a medium – long term financing facility for

investment in projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets

- It will leverage the central sector scheme of the Ministry for Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs).



Significance of the programme

The Cluster Development Programme has a huge potential to transform the entire horticulture ecosystem improving its global competitiveness by building last-mile connectivity with the use of multimodal transport for the efficient and timely evacuation and transport of horticulture produce.