

New initiative to control Foot & Mouth Disease

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New initiative to control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis to support the livestock rearing farmers

Syllabus: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre & Agriculture

Recently Union cabinet announced new initiative to control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis to support the livestock rearing farmers.

The Cabinet had cleared a total outlay of Rs. 13,343 crores to fully control these diseases amongst the livestock in the country in the next five years and subsequently eradicate these diseases.

This decision indicates the spirit of compassion towards those animals who are a valued part of our planet but are not able to speak.

About the scheme

- In case of FMD, the scheme envisages vaccination coverage to 30 crore bovines (cows-bulls and buffaloes) and 20 crore sheep/goat and 1 crore pigs at six months' interval along with primary vaccination in bovine calves, while the Brucellosis control programme shall extend to cover 100% vaccination coverage of 3.6 crore female calves.
- The programme so far has been implemented on cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments.
- In a rare instance of departure, the **Central Government has decided to now bear the entire cost of the programme** to ensure complete eradication of these diseases and

better livelihood opportunities for all the livestock rearing farmers in the country.

About the threat Foot and Mouth Disease(FMD) and Brucellosis

- These diseases are very common amongst the livestock – cow-bulls, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs etc.
- If a cow/buffalo gets infected with FMD, the milk loss is upto 100% which could last for four to six months.
- Further, in case of Brucellosis the milk output reduces by 30%, during the entire life cycle of animal. Brucellosis also causes infertility amongst the animals.
- The infection of brucellosis can also be transmitted to the farm workers and livestock owners. Both the diseases have a direct negative impact on the trade of milk and other livestock products.