

A photograph of a lush green agricultural field with rows of young plants, possibly a vegetable or seedling nursery, under a clear sky. The field is partially obscured by a large purple and orange graphic overlay on the left side.

Weekly Agriculture & Rural development

**Study Material
15-21 April 2022**

Weekly Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Study Material 15-21st May 2022

Dear readers,

Weekly Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) notes are a collection of important news and events that occurred in the third week (15-21st) of May 2022. This file is important for all **regulatory body** exams.

1. Haryana Government is Providing Rs. 4000 to Paddy Farmers

Note:

- Haryana government has decided to provide Rs. 4000 subsidies to the farmers who sow paddy directly.
- In the ongoing Kharif season, government is promoting the direct sowing method for paddy.
- Prior to Haryana, Punjab government also decided to provide a subsidy of Rs. 1500 per acre to farmers for direct sowing of paddy.

Direct Sowing of Paddy

The first method:

- It involves preparing the nursery.
- Sowing paddy using the nursery method increases the water requirement in fields.

Second Method:

- By using the direct sowing method, farmers can sow paddy seeds directly in the field by spraying or using a seed drill.
- This method helps save farmers' time and reduces the cost of cultivation.

2. Union Environment Minister addresses BRICS High Level Meeting on Climate Change

Note:

- Bhupender Yadav (Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) participated in the BRICS High Level Meeting held virtually on May 13, 2022.
- The minister highlighted the importance of the forum to jointly address climate change.
 - To explore approaches to accelerate low-carbon and resilient transition.
 - To achieve sustainable recovery and development.
- The BRICS High Level Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Huang Runqiu (Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China).
- Participants: Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa.

3. World Bee Day celebrated in Gujarat in the presence of Union Agriculture Minister

Note:

- World Bee Day was celebrated on May 20 in the presence of Narendra Singh Tomar (Union Agriculture Minister).
- Government is working very seriously to bring about a "Sweet Revolution" in the country.
- A national level function was organized in Tent City-II, Ekta Nagar, Narmada, Gujarat .
- Agriculture Minister inaugurated an Exhibition at the venue of event as well as Honey Testing Laboratories and Processing Units at Pulwama, Bandipura and Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir, Tumkur in Karnataka, Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Pune in Maharashtra and Uttarakhand in a virtual mode from Gujarat.
- Emphasis was made in National Beekeeping and Honey Mission.

National Beekeeping and Honey Mission:

- It is a centrally funded scheme
- Aims: To establish 5 big regional and 100 small honey and other Bee Products testing laboratories.
- The Government of India is also aiding for setting up of Processing Units.

4. Third Advance Estimates for Production of Major Crops 2021-22 released

Note:

- Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has released third advance estimates of production of major agricultural crops for the year 2021-22.
- Foodgrains production is estimated at record 314.51 million tonnes which is higher by 3.77 million tonnes than 2020-21 data.
- Record crop production: Rice, Maize, Pulses, Oilseeds, Gram, Rapeseed, Mustard, and Sugarcane.
- Assessment of production of different crops is based on the data received from States and validated with information available from other sources.
- As per 3rd Advance Estimates, estimated production of major crops during 2021-22 is as under:
 - Foodgrains 314.51 million tonnes
 - Rice - 129.66 million tonnes
 - Wheat -106.41 million tonnes
 - Nutri / Coarse Cereals - 50.70 million tonnes
 - Maize - 33.18million tonnes
 - Pulses - 27.75 million tonnes
 - Tur - 4.35 million tonnes
 - Gram -13.98 million tonnes
 - Oilseeds - 38.50 million tonnes
 - Groundnut - 10.09 million tonnes
 - Soyabean - 13.83 million tonnes
 - Rapeseed and Mustard - 11.75 million tonnes
 - Sugarcane - 430.50 million tonnes
 - Cotton - 31.54 million bales (each of 170 kg)
 - Jute & Mesta - 10.22 million bales (each of 180 kg)

5. Union Minister of State for Chemicals inaugurates “Industry connect with Centre of Excellence Conclave”

Note:

- Bhagwanth Khuba (Minister of State, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers; and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy)has inaugurated the “Industry Connect with Centre of Excellence Conclave under DCPC” at Habitat World, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- The event was organised by Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) under Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC).
- The event to showcase the findings, identify suitable Industry Partner and understanding the future requirements of the Industry.
- CoEs are working in the areas of Energy Efficient Devices, Eco-Friendly Polymeric Products, Waste Management and Recycling, Smart Polymers, Polymers in Health Care etc.
- Projects like one on Bio medical devices & toys will make India less import dependent.

6. Norms eased for genetically modified crop research

Note:

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has issued guidelines for easing the norms for research into genetically modified (GM) crops and circumventing challenges of using foreign genes to change crops profile.
- The ‘Guidelines for Safety Assessment of Genome Edited Plants, 2022’ exempt researchers who use gene-editing technology to modify the genome of the plant from seeking approvals from the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).
- The GEAC evaluates research into GM plants and recommends, or disapproves, their release into farmer fields.

- The final call however is taken by the Environment Minister as well as States where such plants could be cultivated.
- The Environment Ministry too has sanctioned this exemption.
- Genome editing involves the use of technologies that allow genetic material to be added, removed, or altered at particular locations in the genome.
- Several approaches to genome editing have been developed.
- A well-known one is called CRISPR-Cas9, which is short for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats and CRISPR-associated protein 9.

7. Centre rolls back decision to cap price of raw jute

Note:

- The Union Ministry of Textiles has withdrawn its notification of September 2021 about capping the price of raw jute to Rs 6,500 per quintal May 19, 2022, in a relief to jute mills.
- The decision came after the jute commissioner was told by the Calcutta High Court to take steps to review the rate of raw jute if the notified rate (Rs 6,500 per quintal) cannot be adhered to.
- The court was hearing a petition filed by the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA).
- The government decision to cap the price to Rs 6,500 per quintal was issued September 30, 2021.
- The withdrawal will come into effect from May 20.
- The government capped the price at which the jute mills can purchase raw jute at Rs 6,500 per quintal, the actual price borne by the jute mills was somewhere between Rs 7,000-7,200 per quintal.

8. Kochi to host India Rubber Meet 2022 on July 22

Note:

- The sixth edition of the India Rubber Meet 2022 is scheduled to be held on July 22 and 23 July at Le Meridien Kochi.
- The meet will have representation of stakeholder associations from all segments of the rubber industry.
- IRM is a regular forum for interaction, networking and exchange of information.
- IRM 2022 is organised under the aegis of India Rubber Meet Forum (IRMF), a society formed by Rubber Board and the stakeholder associations in rubber and related sectors.

9. World Dairy Summit 2022

Note:

- International Dairy Federation's World Dairy Summit 2022 will be organized in New Delhi-NCR (Delhi) from September 12-15, 2022.
- Dairy industry stakeholders from over 40 countries would participate and work towards ways to further develop the dairy industry.
- India is hosting the World Dairy Summit after 48 years.
- Theme: "livelihood and nutrition"

10. Centre announces formation of Cotton Council of India

Note:

- The Union Government has announced the formation of the Cotton Council of India under the Chairmanship of renowned veteran cotton man Suresh Bhai Kotak.
- The Council will have representation from Textiles, Agriculture, Commerce, and Finance Ministries along with Cotton Corporation of India and Cotton Research Institute.
- The first meeting of the proposed council has been scheduled for May 28, 2022.
- The council will discuss, deliberate, and prepare a robust action plan for bringing out a tangible improvement in this field.
- The announcement was made by Union Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal during a meeting with stakeholders from the cotton value chain.
- The government is committed to protecting the interests of cotton farmers, spinners, and weavers, the Minister assured to actively consider the demand of the spinning sector for exemption from import duty on those import contracts in which bills of lading are issued up to September 30, 2022, to overcome the current cotton shortage and logistic issues.

11. GeM, CSC and India Posts sign MoU for engagement of last-mile Government buyers, sellers and service providers in public procurement

Note:

- Government e-Marketplace(GeM), Common Service Centre e-governance India Private Limited and Department of Posts signed an MoU for engagement of last mile buyers, sellers and service providers in public procurement.
- The MoU was signed by P K Singh (CEO, GeM); Sanjay Kumar Rakesh (CEO, Common Service Centre e-governance India Private Limited); and Ajay Kumar Roy (Chief General Manager, Parcel Directorate, Department of Posts)
- Nearly four lakh 50 thousand Common Service Centers and around one lakh 50 thousand Post Offices across the country will be trained to assist last-mile government buyers, sellers and service providers.
- The partnership will leverage and utilize the online and physical infrastructure of Common Service Centres and Post Offices to ensure the inclusion and participation of last mile stakeholders on GeM.

12. Cabinet approves National Biofuel Policy after slew of amendments

Note:

- The policy was drafted to help in meeting the target of reducing import dependence on fossil fuels by 10% from 2014- 15 levels by the year 2022.
- The major amendment is being advancing the blending target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol to 2025-26 from 2030 earlier.
- This target is to be achieved by adopting a five-pronged strategy which includes, increasing domestic production, adopting biofuels & renewable, energy efficiency norms, improvement in refinery processes and demand substitution.
- National Biofuel Policy was first drafted in 2009 and then amended in 2018.
- The Cabinet has approved the 2018 draft with further amendments.
- It has allowed more feedstocks for production of biofuels.
- To promote the production of biofuels in the country, under the Make in India program, by units located in Special Economic Zones (SEZ)/ Export Oriented Units (EoUs).
- It has also paved the way for export of biofuels in specific cases.
- The amendments have also called for adding more members to the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC), which is chaired by the union minister of petroleum and natural gas and has members from 14 other ministries.

13. KVIC's big thrust to Wood Craft & Agarbatti Industry in Assam & Arunachal Pradesh to Boost Local Employment

Note:

- KVIC Chairman, Vinai Kumar Saxena has distributed turn wood craft machines to 50 artisans in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and 50 agarbatti making machines and 50 pickle making machines to the artisans at Guwahati in Assam.
- This is for the first time that KVIC has begun the turn wood training program for local youths in Arunachal Pradesh to create sustainable employment for local tribal youths in Tawang and reviving the traditional wood craft in the state.
- These wood craft artisans, all belonging to BPL families, were provided a comprehensive 20-days training by KVIC and upon completion of their training, the machinery was provided to these artisans.
- KVIC Chairman also distributed 50 agarbatti making machines to 50 women artisans under the flagship **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)** to set up their own Agarbatti manufacturing units.

14. Kerala Startup Mission to hold Rural Agri-tech Hackathon

Note:

- **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)**, along with **Kasaragod-based Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI)** will conduct **Rural Agri-tech Hackathon** on the sidelines of the Rural India Business Conclave 2.0 (RIBC 2.0) on June 9.
- The hackathon will be held at Wintouch Palm Meadows, Kasaragod while CPCRI will be the venue for RIBC 2.0.

- Aim: To promote innovative technical solutions that will contribute to the growth of the agriculture in the country.
- The best technical solution emerging from the contest, along with the prototype based on that will be awarded Rs 50,000 cash prize.
- Winner will get an opportunity to directly pitch the idea to secure KSUM's innovation grant of Rs 12 lakh.

15. Centre lifts ban on export of bamboo charcoal

Note:

- The government has lifted the "**export prohibition**" on bamboo charcoal to facilitate optimum utilisation of raw bamboo and higher profitability for the domestic bamboo industry.
- Now, all the bamboo charcoal made from bamboo obtained from legal sources are permitted for export subject to proper documentation/certificate of origin proving that the bamboo used for making charcoal has been obtained from legal sources.

About Bamboo charcoal

- It is made from the culms or refuse of mature bamboo plants and burned in ovens at temperatures ranging from 600 to 1200 °C.
- It is useful in the manufacture of activated carbon.
- It has a huge demand in the international market.

India and Bamboo

- In India, bamboo is mostly used in manufacturing of incense, wherein maximum of 16% is used for making bamboo sticks while 84% of bamboo goes waste.
- As a result, input cost for round bamboo sticks is in the range of Rs 25,000 to Rs 40,000 per MT as against the average bamboo cost of Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 per MT.
- Bamboo charcoal export would ensure complete utilisation of the bamboo waste and thus make the business more profitable.
- Great potential international markets of Indian Bamboo: USA, Japan, Korea, Belgium, Germany, Italy, France and UK.

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Features :



Live Classes by
Top Faculty



Comprehensive Study
Material



Daily Study Plan



Latest Pattern Test Series



Complete Doubt
Resolution



Regular Assessments with
Report Card

