

PALM OIL MISSION

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India conjointly produces a variety of different vegetable oils, like mustard and soyabean, however, it's seen exponential demand for oil over a previous couple of years. India presently produces oil on over three hundred, 000 hectares (741,316 acres) of land and plans to add a further space of 650,000 (160,6184 acres) hectares by 2025-26. Prime Minister of India proclaimed National Edible Oil Mission- Palm oil (NMEO-OP) on 9, August 2021 in a virtual event on PM Kisan theme in contemplation to become an Aatma Nirbhar Bharat by reducing reliance on totally different countries for edible oils. India need to be individualistic in this fair as it is largest consumer of edible oil and third-biggest importer of edible oil former is crude and gold. National Mission on Edible Oil – Palm oil was a scheme launched in year 2014-15 to increase the cultivation of palm for edible oil in India. Further it was subsumed with National Food Security Mission in the year 2018-19. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, taking into account interdependence in field of cultivation of palm oil as India did for wheat and rice. Scheme seeks to raise the domestic production of palm oil by 3 times to 11.20 lakhs tones by 2025-26, thereafter to 28 lakh tones to 2029-30. Andaman & Nicobar Island

and North-Eastern regions of India are special focused regions for this mission which begs the question of concern as it is most ecologically sensitive area. Need to be very critical when we envisage any economical development program as well as ecological balance by taking heed of all aspects. Additional 6.5 lakh hectare for palm oil will bring forth by 2020-26, thereafter increased to 10 lakh hectare by the year 2030.

Enigma here is, how to allure farmer to sign up for this scheme, as they need investment and good return. For that reason, government will vouchsafe price assurances to farmer who are cultivating palm in form of pre-determined price which will be fixed by government as given for 23 crops presently, with a purpose that price volatility for palm oil will not affect farmer. Viability worth set at 14.3 % of crude palm oil price and it will increase thereafter to 15.3%. Deficiency price payment will be filled up by direct benefit transfer to the farmer. North-East and Andaman & Nicobar being special targeted area, government will give 2% more on crude palm price to farmer of these areas for input and investment in cultivation.

OBJECTIVE:

- To harness domestic edible oil costs that square measure determined by costly oil imports and become self-directed in edible oil.
- To raise the domestic production of oil by 3 times to eleven hundred thousand MT by 2025-26.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SCHEME:

- Raise Farmers Income
- It is predicted to incentivize the assembly of oil to scale back dependence on imports and facilitate farmers' profit on the massive market.
- Rise in Yields & Reduction in Imports
- India is that the largest importer of oil within the world. Of this, oil imports square measure nearly fifty-fifth of its total oil imports.
- It imports the remainder, shopping for oil from Indonesia and Malaya, soyoil from Brazil and Argentina, and sunflower-seed oil, in the main from Russia and land.
- In India, 94.1% of its oil is employed in food products, particularly for cookery functions. This makes the oil very crucial to India's edible oils economy.



CHALLENGES:

- Palm is invasive in nature; it will invade native vegetation, wildlife, forest cowl, and species by muddling ecologically fragile areas.
- Palm oil may be a water-guzzling, monoculture crop with an extended biological time that may be ill-suited for little farmers.
- It will aftermath the native social hierarchy and social structure of the region.
- North-East and Andaman & Nicobar being most ecologically sensitive region, this mission can create denudation of forest and its habitat as it was seen with orangutan in south-east Asia which can be recipe for disaster. Various surveys says that 28 lakh hectare of land is totally available in these region out of which only 9 lakh hectare is in North-East region which is not sufficient.
- Katchal island of Andaman & Nicobar already have past experience on palm oil cultivation but now plantation abundant because of its invasive nature which dismayed the ecological balance of that area.
- Indian institute of palm research (IOPR) stated that these abundant areas can be reclaimed and can be renewed by supplementing the region like Andaman, Katcha, Baratang, Kamorta and Teresa for palm oil cultivation.
- Soil and climate of these regions are suitable for palm cultivation but these areas are reserved forest .Therefore, as per Supreme Court 2002 notification that explicit that any plantation of rubber, teak, and oil has got to be phased get in reserved/protected spaces because it could distress forest area and existing plantation.
- We have seen the paradigm of the state that features a similar climate as Andaman & Nicobar has disavowed palm oil and substituted it with additional environment-friendly crops attributable to its water imbibing capability of oil that caused loads of disturbance for water streams and show signs of invasive species. This province that presently grows 90% of India's feather palm depends on bore wells and excess pesticides resulting to health concern.
- Lack of technological acumen offered.

APPROACH FORWARD:

We need proper scientific analysis from several activists, biologists, and naturalists in order to proceed on this mission with robust and strong findings.

We need to take lessons from past experiences of the globe especially South-East Asia, the denotation of the forest, and conjointly the strain of water are seen. We can look for more environment friendly as well as equally returning substitute which can be suitable for dry land farming as well.

Tribes and communities who are dependent on crop of these regions should be assured them with culture of native crop and palm oil so that at beginning phase of this scheme they can have income support.

A robust, long term policy mechanism, sustainable practice and proper monitoring will give mission a push forward. It's important that scientist, academics, industries, farmers, tribes & communities come together and join hands for economic development based on sustainability goals.

