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1. Fight against climate change: India must re-evaluate its agroforestry policy

- What is National Agroforestry Policy?
- What is the need for Agroforestry Policy?
- Why India must re-evaluate the agroforestry policy?
What are the concerns associated with it?

GS paper 3 (Conservation, Environmental impact assessment)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

N.A. (2018, December , 05). India must re-evaluate its agroforestry policy. Hindustan Times. Retrieved from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/editorials/india-must-re-evaluate-its-agroforestry-policy/story-BaBpWdZsM3vVsuMdkGq46K.html>

What is the context about?

- India on Monday assured the ongoing climate change conference at Katowice in Poland that the country is committed to meeting its climate goals.
- In 2015, the country, as part of the requirement ahead of the finalisation of the Paris Agreement, listed a series of specific actions it would take to fight climate change.

- ❑ One of the important promises that India made was that it would create 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of additional carbon sinks through extensive afforestation.
- ❑ A key strategy to achieve this goal will be to promote agroforestry or farm forestry.

What is National Agroforestry Policy?

- ❑ India is the first nation in the world to adopt a comprehensive agroforestry policy when it launched the National Agroforestry Policy (NAP) at the World Agroforestry Congress held in Delhi in February 2014.
- ❑ The National Agroforestry Policy addresses the problems faced by the agroforestry sector including adverse policies, weak markets and a dearth of institutional finance.

Need for Agroforestry Policy

Agroforestry has not attained the desired importance that it should have attained. The main factors responsible for the bad performance of agroforestry are

- ✓ Lack of institutional support mechanisms;
- ✓ Lack of post-harvest processing technologies;
- ✓ Lack of extension mechanisms;
- ✓ Restrictive and non-conducive legal provisions for harvesting and transportation of trees grown on farmlands;

- ✓ Lack of quality planting materials and inadequate research on agroforestry models;
- ✓ Insufficient marketing infrastructure and price discovery mechanisms;
- ✓ Mandate of agroforestry falls under the ambit of various ministries, departments, agencies, state governments, etc.

Why India must re-evaluate the agroforestry policy? What are the concerns associated with it?

While the focus on agroforestry to meet the twin objectives of meeting climate goals and improving the livelihood of farmers is laudable, there are concerns.

- ❑ One of the strongest criticisms is the emphasis on involving private players in the afforestation efforts, which leads to the question of benefit sharing between them and the landowners/community.
- ❑ Second, experts say the policy is trying to convert agricultural land into a manufacturing enterprise, which is not an ecologically sound solution. This is because agroforestry, which has a commercial motive at heart, usually leads to planting one particular species of tree.
- ❑ Third, an agricultural plot is not about farming only; it also supports different kinds of wildlife and communities such as pastoralists. The moment a piece of land comes under any kind of plantation, there will be questions about issues of access and community rights.

