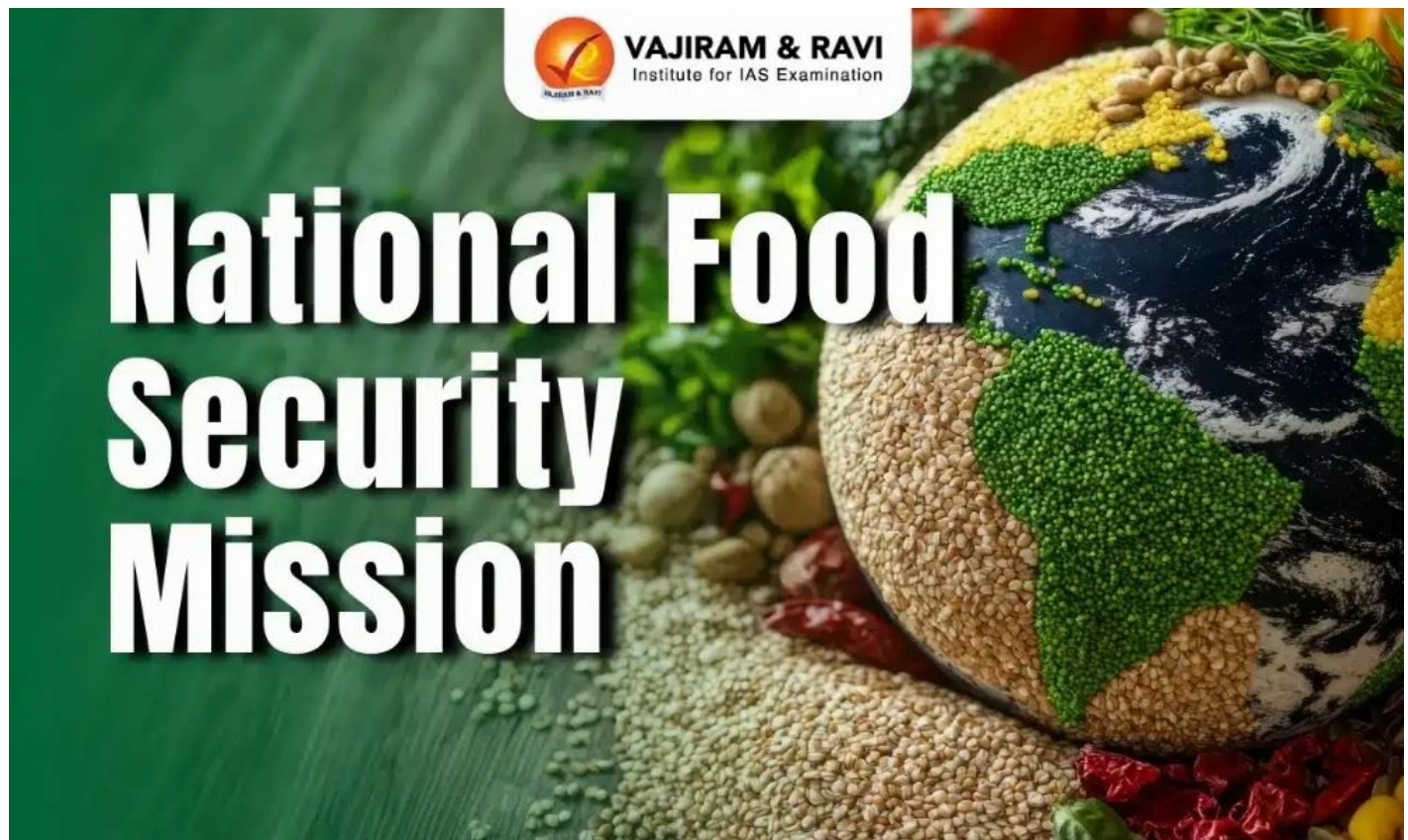


National Food Security Mission, Significance, Objectives, Initiatives

July 8, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched in 2007-08 aiming to increase the production of rice, wheat, and pulses by expanding the cultivation area, enhancing productivity, restoring soil fertility, creating employment opportunities, and improving the farm-level economy. This initiative was renamed as National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) in 2024. Keep reading the article to know how the National Food Security Mission continues to play a major role in ensuring food security and strengthening India's agricultural sector.

National Food Security Mission Overview

The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is a significant initiative by the central government to increase food production and ensure food security for the growing population. The mission focuses on increasing the production of essential crops like pulses, nutri cereals, rice, wheat, and cereals. Check out the table below to get the National Food Security Mission Overview:

National Food Security Mission Overview	
Launch Year	2007
Renamed	National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM)
Ministry	Ministry Of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Objective	To increase the production of rice, wheat, and pulses, ensuring food security in India.
Target	Production Increase: Rice (10 million tonnes), Wheat (8 million tonnes), Pulses (2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan), Additional target of 25 million tonnes during the Twelfth Plan.
Funding	Centrally Sponsored Scheme
Thrust Areas of Scheme	• Increase in the production of targeted crops (through area expansion and productivity enhancement). • Restoration of soil fertility and productivity • Rise in farm level net income.
Implementation	Currently implemented across 638 districts in India.

National Food Security Mission Objectives

The NFSM is introduced to promote the sustainable agricultural practices and enhance the productivity through the below mentioned National Food Security Mission Objectives:

1. Increase the production of rice, wheat, pulses, and coarse cereals to meet the growing food demand of the country.
2. Reduce reliance on imports and support farmers in improving their yields.
3. Provide farmers with high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation support to improve crop yields.
4. Implement measures to restore soil health and maintain productivity at the farm level for sustainable agriculture.
5. Encourage the adoption of eco-friendly farming practices to conserve natural resources and ensure environmental balance.
6. Contribute to the nation's food security by making more food grains available.
7. Create rural employment opportunities by promoting agricultural activities and interventions.

National Food Security Mission Scheme Details

The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare through the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW). It offers both financial and technical support to farmers to increase the production of crops and new cultivation measures:

The mission primarily focuses on key food crops and operates in close partnership with state governments to ensure effective implementation and maximize its impact at the ground level. Target Crops includes Rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, and commercial crops.

NFSM Beneficiary

Under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), farmers of all categories are eligible to receive the scheme's benefits. This approach ensures that small, marginal, and large-scale farmers can access financial assistance, technical support, and other resources to improve their crop production and agricultural productivity.

NFSM Components

- NFSM-Rice
- NFSM-Wheat
- NFSM-Pulses
- NFSM-Coarse Cereals
- NFSM-NFSM-Nutri-Cereals
- NFSM-Commercial Crops

Initiatives under NFSM

Under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), farmers receive incentives through their respective States/UTs to enhance agricultural productivity. The support includes:

1. Promoting advanced techniques for better crop management and protection.
2. Conducting on-field demonstrations to showcase effective farming practices.
3. Encouraging the use of newly released varieties and hybrids by providing access to certified seeds.
4. Supporting sustainable farming through balanced fertilization and pest control methods.
5. Offering training programs during the cropping season to equip farmers with the latest agricultural knowledge and skills.

National Food Security Mission Application Process

Farmers can easily apply for support under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) by approaching their local Rural Agricultural Extension Officers and submitting the required documents. Other than this, they can register on the e-Krishi Yantra Grant Portal to access assistance and avail various benefits under the scheme.

National Food Security Act

The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 is a legal framework designed to provide subsidised food grains to eligible households, aiming to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Key highlights of the NFSA include:

1. It covers around 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households categories.
2. Each eligible person is entitled to 5 kg of wheat, rice, or grains per month at subsidised prices.
3. Food grains are distributed through an extensive network of ration shops.
4. Pregnant women are provided with nutritional support and financial assistance to ensure maternal and child health.
5. The oldest woman in the household is recognized as the head for ration card issuance, promoting gender equality.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/national-food-security-mission/>

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