

UPSC Mains Agriculture PYQs (2025-2013), Year-wise Questions

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UPSC Mains Agriculture PYQs (2025-2013) help candidates understand the pattern and trend of questions asked in the Agriculture section of GS Paper III. Practising these year-wise questions enhances conceptual clarity, analytical thinking, and answer-writing skills. They cover key topics such as cropping patterns, irrigation, agricultural marketing, MSP, food security, agri-reforms, allied sectors, and sustainable agriculture. Regular practice of PYQs enables candidates to prepare more effectively and confidently for the UPSC Mains examination.

UPSC Mains Agriculture PYQs (2025-2013)

1. Elaborate the scope and significance of supply chain management of agricultural commodities in India.
(Answer in 150 words) 2025
2. Explain the factors influencing the decision of the farmers on the selection of high value crops in India.
(Answer in 150 words) 2025
3. How does nanotechnology offer significant advancements in the field of agriculture? How can this technology help to uplift the socio-economic status of farmers? **(Answer in 250 words) 2025**

4. Examine the scope of the food processing industries in India. Elaborate the measures taken by the government in the food processing industries for generating employment opportunities. **(Answer in 250 words) 2025**
5. Explain the role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India. **(10 M) 2024**
6. Elucidate the importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices in India. What are the challenges associated with the storage of buffer stock? **(15 M) 2024**
7. What are the major challenges faced by the Indian irrigation system in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management. **(15 M) 2024**
8. What were the factors responsible for the successful implementation of land reforms in some parts of the country? Elaborate. **(10 M) 2024**
9. Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions. **(15 M) 2023**
10. How does e-Technology help farmers in production and marketing of agricultural produce? Explain it. **(10 M) 2023**
11. State the objectives and measures of land reforms in India. Discuss how land ceiling policy on landholding can be considered as an effective reform under economic criteria. **(10 M) 2023**
12. What are the direct and indirect subsidies provided to the farm sector in India? Discuss the issues raised by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in relation to agricultural subsidies. **(15 M) 2023**
13. What is an Integrated Farming System? How is it helpful to small and marginal farmers in India? **(15 M) 2022**
14. What are the major challenges of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India? How can it be made effective and transparent? **(10 M) 2022**
15. How did land reforms in some parts of the country help to improve the socio-economic conditions of marginal and small farmers ? **2021**
16. How and to what extent would micro-irrigation help in solving India's water crisis ? **2021**
17. What are the salient features of the National Food Security Act, 2013 ? How has the Food Security Bill helped in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in India? **2021**
18. What are the present challenges before crop diversification ? How do emerging technologies provide an opportunity for crop diversification? **2021**
19. What are the major factors responsible for making the rice-wheat system a success? In spite of this success, how has this system become bane in India? **2020**
20. Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under depleting scenario. **2020**
21. What are the main constraints in transport and marketing of agricultural produce in India? **2020**
22. How is science interwoven deeply with our lives? What are the striking changes in agriculture triggered off by science-based technologies? **2020**
23. What are the challenges and opportunities of the food processing sector in the country? How can income of the farmers be substantially increased by encouraging food processing? **2020**
24. How can biotechnology improve the living standards of farmers? **2019**
25. How far is the Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production? **2019**

26. Elaborate on the impact of the National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas. **2019**
27. How was India benefited from the contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively? **2019**
28. Elaborate on the policy taken by the government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector. **2019**
29. What are the reformative steps taken by the government to make the food grain distribution system more effective? **2019**
30. Sikkim is the first 'Organic State' in India. What are the ecological and economical benefits of Organic State? **2018**
31. Assess the role of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers? **2018**
32. How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in the recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption. **2018**
33. Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables and food items. How do they eliminate the number of intermediaries? **2018**
34. What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low-income trap? **2018**
35. What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilize the yield of the crop in the system? **2017**
36. Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How have these revolutions helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India? **2017**
37. What are the reasons for poor acceptance of cost-effective small processing unit? How the food processing unit will be helpful to uplift the socio-economic status of poor farmers? **2017**
38. How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers? **2017**
39. What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency. **2016**
40. What is allelopathy? Discuss its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture. **2016**
41. Given the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) **2016**
42. Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India. **2016**
43. How can the 'Digital India' programme help farmers to improve farm productivity and income? What steps has the Government taken in this regard? **2015**
44. Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote this sector in India. **2015**
45. In view of the declining average size of land holdings in India which has made agriculture nonviable for a majority of farmers, should contract farming and land leasing be promoted in agriculture? Critically evaluate the pros and cons. **2015**

46. What are the impediments in marketing and supply chain management in industry in India? Can e-commerce help in overcoming these bottlenecks? **2015**
47. There is also a point of view that agriculture produce market committees (APMCs) set up under the state acts have not only impeded the development of agriculture but also have been the cause of food inflation in India. Critically examine. **2014**
48. "In the villages itself no form of credit organisation will be suitable except the cooperative society." – All Indian rural credit survey. Discuss this statement in the background of agriculture finance in India. What constraints and challenges do 2014 financial institutions supplying agricultural finances? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients? **2014**
49. India needs to strengthen measures to promote the pink revolution in the food industry for better nutrition and health. Critically elucidate the statement. **2013**
50. Establish the relationship between land reform, agriculture productivity and elimination of poverty in the Indian Economy. Discussion the difficulty in designing and implementation of the agriculture friendly land reforms in India. **2013**
51. Food security bill is expected to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Critically discuss various apprehensions in its effective implementation along with the concerns it has generated in WTO. **2013**
52. What are the different types of agriculture subsidies given to farmers at the national and state levels? Critically analyze the agriculture subsidy regime with the reference to the distortions created by it. **2013**

Benefits of Practicing UPSC Mains Agriculture Previous Year Questions

Practising UPSC Mains Agriculture Previous Year Questions (PYQs) helps candidates understand the exam pattern, strengthen core agricultural concepts, and improve answer-writing skills for GS Paper III.

- Understand the **UPSC Exam Pattern** and the nature of **Agriculture questions** asked in GS Paper III.
- Identify **Important Topics** such as **cropping patterns, irrigation, MSP, agricultural marketing, food security, allied sectors, and sustainable agriculture**.
- Improve **Answer Writing Skills** by practising **structured, analytical, and balanced responses**.
- Strengthen **Conceptual Clarity** on key **agricultural concepts, policies, and government initiatives**.
- Recognise **Recurring Themes** to focus on **high-weightage areas** like **agri-reforms, farm income, and sustainability**.
- Integrate **Current Affairs** with **static topics** using the **Economic Survey, Union Budget, and recent agricultural policies**.
- Develop **Analytical Thinking** by evaluating **agricultural issues from multiple perspectives**.
- Enhance **Time Management** through regular **timed practice of PYQs**.
- Boost **Confidence** by becoming familiar with the **UPSC Mains Agriculture question pattern**.
- Revise Effectively using **PYQs** as a reliable tool for **quick and focused revision** before the examination.

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