

MPPSC MAINS

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What is Z.B.N.F.? What are its advantages and shortcomings?

(250 W)

Ans:

Zero budget natural farming is chemical free agriculture method based on agro-ecology and pre-green revolution agricultural techniques. Z.B.N.F. was introduced by Dr. Subhash Palekar in mid-90s citing disadvantages of green revolution.

India's Finance minister in 2019 budget speech called for "back to the basics", encouraging Z.B.N.F.

Pillars of Z.B.N.F.

Jeevamurtha

- Cow dung & urine
Pulse
floor

- to be used on land

Bijamitaa

- Neem leaves
insect and pest management

- seed treatment

Arhadana

- Mulching
Avoid deep plough

- Protecting top soil

Whapasa

- Use of air and water vapours

- less use of water.



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Z.B.N.F. is an organic farming method, thus have following advantages:-

Advantages :-

(i) According to NSSO, farmers usually spend more than they get, thus through "Zero budget" exercise, the problem of debt can be solved.

(ii) Z.B.N.F. encourages crop diversification and mixed farming.

(iii) Maintaining sustainability of soil through less use of chemical fertilizers.

(iv) Promoting bio-diversity through mixed farming.

(v) Less wastage of water as only 10-20% water is used for same crop as compared to conventional farming.

(vi) Suitable for all Agro-climatic zones.

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However, due to uncertainty, bad past experiences from pre-green revolution era and lack of proper studies, Z.B.N.F. has following shortcomings.

Shortcomings:

(i) In Sikkim, organic Z.B.N.F. was not able to provide productivity as compared to conventional farming.

(ii) Due to less productivity, costs are comparatively higher, thus making goods less penetratable to lower classes.

(iii) Z.B.N.F. relies on Indian cow breed whose numbers are declining rapidly.

(iv) Due to lack of studies and sufficient technologies farmers are moving back to conventional farming.

(v) 'Sri Lanka' faced a 'food crisis' after switching to similar farming methods.



However, if applied with proper will and research, through adaptation of modern technology, finance minister's call of 'back to basics' could bring a healthy and sustainable future; ensuring 'food security of upcoming generations'.

Excellent!

