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# Clean Plant Programme

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## Why in news?

The Union Cabinet today approved the **Clean Plant Programme (CPP)** proposed by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

With a substantial investment of Rs.1,765.67 crore, this pioneering initiative is set to revolutionize the horticulture sector in India and expected to set new standards for excellence and sustainability.

## About Clean Plant Programme

The Program will be launched to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops.

## The Program will aim to -

- Enhance the yield of horticulture crops,
- Disseminate and adopt climate resilient varieties,
- Protect the ecosystem through proactive virus and disease control measures.

The programme will be anchored by the **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** which in turn **will set up Clean Plant Centers across the country** and ensure the global competitiveness of the Indian horticulture sector.

The centers will work with the stakeholders so that they adopt clean plant seeds and nurseries.

## Key Benefits of the Clean Plant Programme (CPP):

**Farmers:** The CPP will **provide access to virus-free, high-quality planting material**, leading to increased crop yields and improved income opportunities.

**Nurseries:** **Streamlined certification processes** and **infrastructure support will enable nurseries to efficiently propagate clean planting material**, fostering growth and sustainability.

**Consumers:** The initiative will ensure that **consumers benefit from superior produce that is free from viruses**, enhancing the **taste, appearance, and nutritional value** of fruits.

**Exports:** By producing higher-quality, disease-free fruits, **India will strengthen its position as a leading global exporter**, expanding market opportunities and increasing its share in the international fruit trade.

The Programme will **prioritize affordable access to clean plant material for all farmers**, regardless of their landholding size or socioeconomic status.

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vThe ***Programme will actively engage women farmers in its planning and implementation***, ensuring their access to resources, training and decision-making opportunities.

vThe ***Programme will address the diverse agro-climatic conditions across India*** by developing region-specific clean plant varieties and technologies.

### **Core Components of the CPP:**

**Clean Plant Centers (CPCs):** ***Nine world class state-of-the-art CPCs***, equipped with advanced diagnostic therapeutics and tissue culture labs, will be established across India.

These include:

**1Grapes (NRC, Pune),**

**2Temperate Fruits - Apple, Almond, Walnuts etc. (CITH, Srinagar & Mukteshwar),**

**3Citrus Fruits (CCRI, Nagpur & CIAH, Bikaner),**

**4Mango/Guava/Avacado (IIHR, Bangaluru),**

**5Mango/Guava/Litchi (CISH, Lucknow),**

**6Pomegranate (NRC, Sholapur) and**

**7Tropical/Sub-Tropical Fruits in Eastern India**

These centers will play a crucial role in producing and maintaining virus-free planting material meant for larger propagation.

**Certification and Legal Framework:** A robust certification system will be implemented, supported by a ***regulatory framework under the Seeds Act 1966***, to ensure thorough accountability and traceability in planting material production and sale.

**Enhanced Infrastructure:** ***Support will be provided to large-scale nurseries*** for the development of infrastructure, facilitating the efficient multiplication of clean planting material.