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## AGRICULTURE 2025: REIMAGING INDIA'S AGRI-ECOSYSTEM FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

NEW YEAR SPECIAL

### AGRICULTURE 2025: REIMAGINING INDIA'S AGRI-ECOSYSTEM FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

India's agricultural sector, employing 42% of the workforce and contributing 17.66% to the Gross Value Added (GVA), is undergoing significant transformation.

#### Technology will play a key role

The Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM), was launched in 2024 with a financial outlay of Rs 2,817 crore. Central to this mission is AgriStack, a farmer-centric Digital Public Infrastructure aimed at providing digital identities to over 11 crore farmers by 2027. Piloted in states such as Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, AgriStack consolidates critical data, including land records and crop details, enabling streamlined access to subsidies, crop insurance, and real-time advisories. The crop data is consolidated using a combination of satellite data, remote sensing tools and manual checks and balances.

Complementing this is Soil Profile Mapping, which creates detailed maps for 142 million hectares of agricultural land, offering farmers actionable in-

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sights to adopt precision farming. This initiative significantly enhances soil health management and boosts productivity. In states like Punjab and Haryana, drone-based spraying has reduced input costs by 30%, while soil health cards, distributed to 23 crore farmers, have optimized fertilizer use.

Additionally, the Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES) employs technology-driven crop-cutting experiments to provide accurate yield estimates, crucial for efficient planning and resource allocation.

ONDC is helping build true scale when it comes to Agriculture platforms. Thanks to platforms such as DeHaat coming on ONDC network, the farmers have better access to service providers – drones or tractors on rent, for instance

– as well as input sellers.

#### Fisheries and Aquaculture will take off

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) Scheme 1.0 comes to an end by March 2025. Version 2.0 to be launched next year is expected to be even more impactful. We expect significant investments in infrastructure and capacity building. In addition to existing schemes, several high-impact cluster development activities are planned by the Government, which will certainly improve fish farmers' livelihood and incomes.

#### Non-traditional sources of income will increase

Maize was largely bought by poultry industry at one point. Currently, Ethanol production is driving demand as well as prices for maize, and farmers are bound to make more money through this channel in the coming years.

Both Agriculture and Forest Departments have started engaging with farmers on carbon credits. Oceans have always been known as the best carbon sink. Mangroves in coastal regions are expected to play a big role in the evolving carbon credits market.

With increasing consumer consciousness around chemical-free and healthy food options, demand for urban farming models like hydroponics and vertical farming are growing rapidly. Also, the market for native Indian crops – such as Khapli, Bansi varieties of wheat – is growing rapidly. We expect both the government and the farmer communities to invest heavily in this area.

As we look toward 2025, Indian agriculture stands at the crossroads of tradition and innovation. By embracing technology, sustainability, and farmer-centric policies, India is poised to lead the global narrative in agriculture.



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