National Agroforestry Policy, 2014

Context

- A webinar was organized on 13th June 2020 to discuss ways and means to **connect agroforestry farmers to industry** and sensitise implementing States to assist farmers in making the correct choice of species.

What is agroforestry?

- Agroforestry is defined as a **land use system** which **integrate trees and shrubs** on farmlands and rural landscapes to enhance **productivity, profitability, diversity and ecosystem sustainability**.
- It is a dynamic, ecologically based, natural **resource management** system that, through **integration of woody perennials on farms and in the agricultural landscape**, diversifies and sustains production and builds social institutions.

Various Policies

- India became the world's first country to adopt a comprehensive agroforestry policy.

Basic objectives

- Encourage and **expand tree plantation** in complementarity and **integrated** manner with crops and livestock to improve productivity, employment, income and livelihoods of rural households, especially the small holder farmers.
- **Protect and stabilize ecosystems** and **promote resilient cropping** and farming systems to minimize the risk during extreme climatic events.
- Meet the **raw material requirements** of wood based industries and reduce import of wood and wood products to save foreign exchange.
- Supplement the **availability of agroforestry products (AFPs)**, such as the fuel-wood, fodder, non-timber forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations, thereby reducing the pressure on existing forests.
- Complement achieving the target of **increasing forest/tree cover** to promote ** ecological stability**, especially in the vulnerable regions.
- Develop capacity and strengthen **research in agroforestry** and create a massive people's movement for achieving these objectives and to minimize pressure on existing forests.

Strategy

- Establishment of **Institutional Setup** at National level to promote Agroforestry
- An institutional mechanism, such as a Mission or Board is to be established for implementing the agroforestry policy.
- It will provide the **platform for the multi-stakeholders** to jointly plan and identify the
priorities and strategies, for inter-ministerial coordination, programmatic convergence, financial resources mobilization and leveraging, capacity building facilitation, and technical and management support.

- **The Ministry of Agriculture has the mandate for agroforestry.**
- Agroforestry Mission / Board will be located in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) in the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).
- The actual implementation may involve convergence and dovetailing with a number of programmes.
- **Agroforestry research and development (R&D),** including capacity development and pilot studies / testing and action research should be the responsibility of the ICAR.
- In the proposed institutional arrangement the current stakes of the key ministries are to be respected and utilized.
- **Simple regulatory mechanism** - There is a need to create simple mechanisms / procedures to regulate the harvesting and transit of agroforestry produce within the State, as well as in various States forming an ecological region.
- Development of a sound database & information system
- Investing in research, extension and capacity building and related services
- Improving farmers' access to quality planting material
- Providing institutional credit and insurance cover for agroforestry
- Facilitating increased participation of industries dealing with agroforestry produce
- Strengthening farmer access to markets for tree products.
- **Incentives to farmers** for adopting agroforestry
- Promoting sustainable agroforestry for renewable biomass based energy