**Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNS)**

**Syllabus subtopic:** Major crops cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers

**News:** The ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research initiated a study on Evaluation of Zero Budget Natural Farming practices in Basmati/coarse rice-wheat system from Rabi 2017 at 4 locations namely Modipuram, Pantnagar, Ludhiana, Kurukshetra

**Prelims and Mains focus:** about ZBNS and its significance for Indian agriculture
The details of States practicing ZBNF are as follows:

1. **Karnataka** – has initiated implementation of ZBNF on pilot basis in an area of 2000 ha in each of the 10 Agro Climatic Zones of the State through the respective State Agriculture/ horticulture Universities as demonstrations/ Scientific experimental trials in farmer’s fields and in the research stations of the concerned universities.

2. **Himachal Pradesh** - is implementing State funded scheme ‘Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan’ since May, 2018, the details of which are as: 2018-19- 2669 farmers, Area: 357 ha.

3. **Kerala** – only awareness programmes, trainings and workshops to draw interest of farmers towards ZBNF has been imparted.

4. **Andhra Pradesh** - launched ZBNF in September 2015 under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh is conducting experiments to generate the scientific evidence of the ZBNF in collaboration with University of Reading, UK World Agro forestry Centre, Nairobi, FAO & resource NGOs/Civil Society Organizations like Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, Hyderabad.

5. **Himachal Pradesh**: The findings of studies conducted by the state indicated that ZBNF practice showed an improvement in soil quality within a single cropping season and incidence of Invasive leaf miner was significantly less in ZBNF system as compared to the organic farming and conventional farming.
Zero Budget Farming

4 acres of infertile land in Sheikhpur, Bihar

Rajiv Kumar had 4 acres of infertile land in Sheikhpur, Bihar, that could not be used for profitable farming. Water shortage was also a severe problem.

Zero Budget organic farming workshops
Learning with the Art of Living to make the land fertile

Vegetation needs moisture, not water, so cultivating near a pit of water provides better irrigation and prevents waste.

Increasing the ground water flow

Rajiv dug pits every 30 feet and filled it with water and grew different types of flowers around it. This increased ground water flow.

After applying the Zero Budget technique

With water supply available 24x7 now, Rajiv has created a thriving nursery of flowers of excellent quality.

Self-sustainability and profits

Selling to numerous customers including The Forest Department.

Per capita income of Bihar is Rs. 28,000 per annum whereas Rajiv now earns more than Rs. 40,000 per annum.

The Art of Living has taught Zero Budget Farming to 2 million farmers across India.