TRIFED Celebrates 100 days of Prime Minister Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY)

Syllabus subtopic: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections

Prelims and Mains focus: About PMVDY, TRIFED and its significance

News: Managing Director, TRIFED updated the media on the completion of ‘100 days of Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY)

About PM Van Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

- It is a national programme driven by TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, aimed at empowering tribals all over the country to make them entrepreneurs.
- During the short period after initiation of sanctioning the Van Dhan program on 27 Aug 2019, proposals for establishing 799 VDKVs from 24 States have been received and TRIFED has sanctioned 676 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in 18 States covering 2,00,740 beneficiaries for a sanctioned amount of Rs. 99.81 Cr.
- The initiative aims to promote MFPs-centric livelihood development of tribal gatherers and artisans.
- It mainstreams the tribal community by promoting primary level value addition to MFP at grassroots level.
- Significance: Through this initiative, the share of tribals in the value chain of Non-Timber Forest Produce is expected to rise from the present 20% to around 60%.
Implementation:

- The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level.
- At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroots level.
- Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.
- **Composition**: As per the plan, TRIFED will facilitate establishment of MFP-led multi-purpose Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, a cluster of 10 SHGs comprising of 30 tribal MFP gatherers each, in the tribal areas.
Significance of MFP:

- **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** is a major source of livelihood for tribals living in forest areas. The importance of MFPs for this section of the society can be gauged from the fact that around 100 million forest dwellers depend on MFPs for food, shelter, medicines and cash income.

- It provides them critical subsistence during the lean seasons, particularly for primitive tribal groups such as hunter gatherers, and the landless. Tribals derive 20-40% of their annual income from MFP on which they spend major portion of their time.

- This activity has strong linkage to women’s financial empowerment as most of the MFPs are collected and used/sold by women. MFP sector has the potential to create about 10 million workdays annually in the country.

About TRIFED

The full form of TRIFED is The **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India**. It was established in 1987. It became operational from April 1988. The basic objective of the TRIFED is to provide good price of the 'Minor Forest Produce (MFP) collected by the tribes of the country.

The **head office of the TRIFED is in New Delhi**. In addition to head office it has network of 13 Regional offices located at various places in the country.

TRIFED is a national level apex organization **functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.

Objectives of the TRIFED are

1. To **provide fair price** to the 'Minor Forest Produce (MFP) collected by the tribes and enhance their level of income.
2. To ensure **sustainable harvesting** of 'Minor Forest Produce (MFP).
3. To save the tribes from the exploitation of the business mediators who purchase the products of the tribes at cheap rate and sell at the higher prices. So TRIFED removed the mediators.
4. If the price of the products fluctuates then TRIFED arranges compensation for the tribes from the Ministry of Agriculture.
5. TRIFED also assures the tribes for purchasing their products at a particular price, primary processing of products, storage of products and transportation etc.
6. TRIFED provides information related to fair price markets for the 'Minor Forest Produce (MFP). Like tribes of all over country sell their products in the trade fair organised at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi every year.
7. TRIFED helps in increasing the bargaining power of the tribes to fetch good price of the MFP.
8. TRIFED provides adequate training to the tribes to make value addition to their products.
So it can be concluded that the TRIFED is doing great job in ensuring the good price for the products of the tribes. It is expected that in the coming years the TRIFED will get success in enhancing the standard of living of this community.