Van Dhan Yojana

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) launched the Van Dhan scheme in 2018 with an intention to improve the tribal income through value addition of tribal products. In this article, you can read all about the Van Dhan Scheme for the UPSC Exam.

What is Van Dhan Scheme?

The scheme aims at the economic development of tribals involved in the collection of Minor Food Produces (MFPs) by helping them in optimum utilization of natural resources and providing them with a sustainable livelihood.

Under this scheme, the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras constituted, provide skill up-gradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facilities.

Implementation of the Van Dhan Scheme

The implementation of the Van Dhan Yojana is administrated through the Ministry of Tribal Affairs at different levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Level</th>
<th>Nodal Department is the Ministry of Tribal Affairs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Level</td>
<td>The Nodal Agency is TRIFED India (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India)</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Level</td>
<td>State Nodal Agencies for Minor Forest Produce Schemes (MFP) and District Collectors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Level</td>
<td>An SHG consisting of approx 30 members to form a Van Dhan Vikas Samuh.</td>
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- The local Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are managed by a Managing Committee (a Self-Help Group) that consists of Van Dhan SHG representatives.
- At the unit level, the members of Van Dhan Vikas Samuh are then trained and provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the jungle.

The tribals will be trained on sustainable harvesting, collection, primary processing and value addition. They will be formed into clusters to aggregate their stock in tradable quantity and link them with the facility of primary processing in Van Dhan Vikas Kendra.

These Kendras play a significant role in the economic progress and development of tribes. They also help the tribals utilize their natural resources in the best possible way providing them with a sustainable livelihood based on Minor Forest Produce from the MFP-rich areas.

The central and state governments will provide necessary support by creating infrastructure and providing enabling environment for undertaking value addition on systematic scientific lines.

To know more about Scheduled and Tribal Areas in India, click here

TRIFED

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in 1987. TRIFED has two significant functions:

- Retail Marketing of Tribal Products
Development of MFP (Minor Forest Produce)

Objectives

- Promoting and encouraging Socio-Economic development of the tribal community by improving and developing the market of the tribal commodities.
- TRIFED acts as a medium and a facilitator that helps the tribes sell their products.
- Some of the tribal products include tribals art, textiles, metal craft, tribal painting pottery, etc.
- These products and their sale contribute to a major part of their income.

UPSC Questions related to Van Dhan Scheme

Who launched the Van Dhan scheme?
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED launched the Van Dhan scheme in 2018.

What is Van Dhan Yojana?
- The Van Dhan scheme aims at the economic development of tribals involved in the collection of Minor Food Produces (MFPs) by helping them in optimum utilization of natural resources and providing them with a sustainable livelihood.

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