



## **India's G20 Presidency: Prioritizing Agriculture**

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### **Abstract:**

This article explains how can India, as the chair of the G20, lead by example in order to help the millions of people in the Global South who continue to have difficulties with access to food and nutrition, which are exacerbated by climate change. Under the 2011 French Presidency, agriculture was introduced in the G20 amid rising global population and shifting consumer demand. In several important areas, such as food security, market transparency and information, sustainable growth in agricultural production, water efficiency in agriculture, and sustainable soil management, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has been supporting the G20 agenda .The Agriculture Working Group (AWG) of G20 nations that was held on June 15-17 at Hyderabad, Priority areas for encouraging agricultural diversification, advancing sustainable agriculture, and allocating financial resources to ecologically sensitive and climate-resilient farming were identified by the AWG of the G20. Agriculture ministers from the Group of Twenty (G20) member nations convene at the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting, a critical forum, to deliberate and tackle issues and prospects pertaining to the agricultural industry. The conference provides a platform for idea exchange, best practice sharing, and international agricultural collaboration with the goal of attaining sustainable and equitable agricultural growth.

### **Introduction:**

The most important forum for global economic cooperation is the Group of Twenty (G20). It is crucial to the development and reinforcement of global architecture and governance with regard to all significant international economic concerns. India's G20 presidency will be vital to extending the noteworthy accomplishments of the previous 17 presidencies since it is the world's largest democracy and has the fastest expanding economy. With a focus on the LiFE movement,



which strives to encourage environmentally conscious habits and a sustainable way of life, India is on a mission to usher in a shared global future for all as it assumes the G20 Presidency through the Amrit Kaal project. India seeks to advance just growth, peace, and a rules-based system through a development-oriented strategy and well-defined plans. India's strategy and the six thematic goals of its G20 leadership will be reinforced by the more than 200 activities scheduled in the lead-up to the 2023 Summit. **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, or "One Earth, One Family, One Future,"** is the G20 presidential theme for India. The ancient Sanskrit text known as the Maha Upanishad served as its inspiration. The subject essentially emphasises the value of all life, including microorganisms, plants, animals, and humans, as well as how interdependent they are both on Earth and beyond the universe. A cleaner, greener, and bluer future can be achieved by environmentally conscious lifestyle choices made at both the individual and national levels, as demonstrated by the concept of **LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**.

In Hyderabad, the G-20's Agriculture Working Group (AWG) convened a three-day meeting of agriculture ministers. At the summit are around 200 participants from invited countries, member countries, and international organisations. During a press conference, **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** stated that the meeting's agenda items include priority sectors for agriculture. The Agriculture Working Group's foundation this year is these areas. Under **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's** direction, according to Shri Tomar, India is fully committed to ensuring food security and nutrition; appropriate policies have been created, and successful execution is also being ensured.

### **G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting 2023**

Almost 200 delegates, including invitee countries, international organisations, and representatives from G20 member countries, will attend the 2023 G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting. The event will be noteworthy in the world of agriculture since it will be attended by distinguished ministers of agriculture from numerous nations as well as director generals from international organisations.



Alongside the Ministerial Meeting there were two side events, namely “Managing Agribusiness for Profit, People, and Planet” and “Connecting the Digitally Disconnected: Harnessing the Power of Digital Technologies in Agriculture,” are scheduled to take place.

"Managing Agribusiness for Profit, People, and Planet" was the theme of the first side event. The panellists for the discussion were representatives of many commercial businesses that develop reliable supply chain solutions. Managing trade-offs between profit, people, and the environment was the main topic of discussion during the panel. Additionally, they talked about how to find strategies, laws, and initiatives to improve the overall sustainability of food systems.

"Connecting the Digitally Disconnected: Harnessing the Power of Digital Technologies in Agriculture" was the theme of the second side event. Panellists from international organisations, start-ups, and various Agri Tech enterprises participated in the discussion. The panel discussion covered the nature of government and stakeholder interventions in promoting and supporting the bridging the gap for the population that is digitally disconnected, as well as strategies for scaling up and replicating the best practices of digital agriculture initiatives.

Ensuring sustainable agricultural practices, advancing global food security, and addressing farmers' socioeconomic problems are the main goals of the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting. The following major topics are the focus of the meeting:

**Food Security and Nutrition:** By tackling problems with the supply, cost, and accessibility of wholesome food, G20 agriculture ministers work together to improve global food security. Their goals include raising the efficiency of food delivery networks, decreasing post-harvest losses, and increasing agricultural production.

**Climate Resilience and Sustainable Agriculture:** The conference places a strong emphasis on implementing sustainable agricultural practices that both lessen the effects of climate change and increase the resilience of agricultural systems. This entails encouraging conservation agriculture, climate-smart agriculture, and the application of cutting-edge technology to maximise resource efficiency.

**Innovation and Technology Transfer:** The significance of innovation and technology



transfer in agriculture is discussed by G20 member nations. They investigate how to support digital agriculture, encourage research and development in the agricultural sciences, and make it easier for countries to share technology innovations.

The significance of rural development and poverty alleviation in attaining sustainable agriculture is acknowledged during the discussion. Ministers talk about ways to improve rural lives, give farmers better access to markets and infrastructure, and empower rural communities through capacity building programmes.

**Trade and Market Access:** The G20's agriculture ministers agree that the agricultural industry needs just and open trade policies. In order to promote a favourable climate for international trade, they address concerns about market access, trade barriers, and the elimination of agricultural subsidies.

### **The Agriculture Working Group (AWG) 2023**

This time, according to Union Minister Shri Tomar, India would be leading the G-20 as its chairman, under the capable direction of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. As a result, on June 15–17, 2023, in Hyderabad, the Agriculture Working Group conference is being planned. The Agriculture Working Group's priority areas, according to Shri Tomar, are:

This study aims to improve food security and nutrition by promoting agro-diversification and strengthening social protection systems. A climate-smart approach that focuses on climate-resilient technology and farming system models for sustainable agricultural output is the second sustainable agriculture and financing green and climate-resilient agriculture.

Third, enhancing chances for economic growth through sharing technologies and investments, building infrastructure for women, youth, and small and marginalised farmers, and promoting inclusive food and agricultural value chains to increase the resilience and efficiency of value chains.

The fourth strategy involves using digitalization to alter agriculture. It focuses on using newly emerging digital technologies to transform the agri-food industry and standardising agricultural data platforms as digital public goods.



**The International Year of Millets** is slated to take place in 2023, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In addition to being healthy, millets, Shree Anna, and superfoods assist farmers in achieving sustainable livelihoods by encouraging revenue diversification and fostering climate resilience. India was reiterated in its commitment to sharing best practices, research, and innovations related to ancient grains and cereals.

Additionally, India is educating farmers about crop diversification. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has created climate-appropriate cultivars. Through the development of natural and organic farming as well as sustainable agricultural systems, India is prepared for the advancement of farmers and the agriculture sector. Organisations like the G-20 are very helpful in addressing common difficulties in agriculture by developing a common approach.

According to Shri Tomar, innovative programmes, realistic and sustainable solutions for our food systems, and effective policies have all been put into place for the farm sector.

These initiatives highlight the significance of the digital agriculture ecosystem by highlighting the pivotal roles that stakeholders and the government play in embracing and advancing digital solutions that improve our agricultural environment. Additionally, India is exporting more agricultural goods than ever before, which is undoubtedly good for the farmers.

## **Conclusion**

Global collaboration for sustainable agriculture is greatly aided by the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting. Through tackling issues pertaining to food security, sustainability, innovation, rural development, and trade, participating nations can collaborate to establish a more robust and comprehensive agricultural industry. In the end, farmers, consumers, and the earth as a whole will gain from the conference as a springboard for global cooperation, information exchange, and policy coordination. Stronger food security through millet production and consumption, increased availability of resources for development, increased tourism, global workplace opportunities, and a stronger commitment to biofuels are just a few of the notable outcomes of the G20 Summit that will benefit the entire country.