



Precis writing...

Nigeria spends an average of US \$22 billion each year on food imports. Its major food imports include wheat, sugar and fish. Another big import, rice, accounts for about US\$1.65 billion. Most of the country's rice is imported from Thailand and India. This has led analysts to predict it will be the world's second-largest importer of rice after China in 2019.

Facts

There are a few reasons that Nigeria's demand for rice is so high. Among them is rapid urbanisation; people who arrive in cities and seek out cheap, nutritious, filling food invariably turn to rice. More traditional coarse grains like sorghum and millet have become less popular over the years. This, according to research, is because rice is "a more convenient and easy staple to prepare compared to other traditional cereals across income levels in the urban areas".

Reasons

Now Nigeria's government is trying to stem the tide of imported rice. Towards the end of 2018, it announced its intention to halt rice imports entirely. In doing so, it hopes to save a great deal of money. But is this plan realistic? Unfortunately, it's not. Nigeria's agricultural sector simply isn't equipped to produce the amount of rice to meet demand. It is battling natural and climatic factors, a lack of funding and training for farmers and a dearth of government

Precis Writing

→ Title (Heading)

Nigeria and its Rice Imports

Nigeria is spending huge amounts in its rice imports. Rice imports amount to US\$ 1.65 billion, making Nigeria second largest importer of rice. Rapid urbanization, cheapness and nutritional value are some of the reasons for its high demand. The demand of rice is because of its convenience and its easiness to prepare.

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Problems

At the end of 2018, the Nigerian Government tried to ban rice imports to save money. But it was kind of unrealistic, because Nigeria's land was not fit enough to grow rice, as it was battling with natural and climatic factors, there was lack of funding, farmers'

factors, a lack of funding and training for farmers, and a dearth of government support. To turn this around, the government needs to invest heavily in rice farmers.

lack of funding, farmers' lacking skills and government's <sup>monetary</sup> support was absent.

Recently, the National Health Authority (NHA) and the All India Transporters Welfare Association (AITWA) have announced a partnership through a memorandum of understanding (MoU). This partnership aims to provide healthcare services to around 10 million truck drivers under the Ayushman Bharat (AB)-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). The NHA and the AITWA will work together in order to identify truck drivers and employees of transport companies who are eligible for the scheme. The Common Service Centres (CSCs), which comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, will work toward facilitating the verification of drivers using the NHA's Beneficiary Identification System. This collaboration will help thousands of eligible families access in-patient care for serious illnesses at a nationwide network of 19,002 government and private hospitals empanelled under the PM-JAY. After the verification, the eligible drivers

partnership

Heading → Healthcare services for truck drivers under Ayushman Bharat.

aim

To identify and provide healthcare services to 10 million truck drivers and employees of transport companies under the AB - PMJAY, the NHA and AITWA has announced a partnership through a MoU.

schemes

process

In patient care will be accessible to thousands of eligible families at around 19,002 government and private hospitals under PMJAY. The first phase aims to conduct a pilot project at some key locations. The eligible drivers can get their AB PM - JAY e-cards at the nearest AITWA Highway Hero Centres and they can avail all the benefits after

~~hospitals empanelled under the PM-JAY~~

After the verification, the eligible drivers can get their AB PM-JAY e-cards at the nearest AITWA Highway Hero Centres. In the first phase, a pilot project will be conducted at key locations under the AITWA and the AB PM-JAY. This will be expanded to other towns across the country. Eligible drivers and employees of

who

will get

the benefit?

country. Eligible drivers and employees of different transport companies will be able to avail themselves of the benefits after getting the PM-JAY cards. NHA officials will work closely with the teams of the AITWA and the CSCs to conduct the drive to identify beneficiaries.

the benefit?

courses under they can avail all the benefits after identification. which is done by the CSCs.