

Analysis of Programmes & Schemes Implemented by Government of India in Agri & Allied Sectors

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ABSTRACT

The 'Green Revolution' in the 1960s transformed Indian agriculture, leading to increased food production and turning the country into a food-surplus, export-oriented nation. However, the sector now faces challenges such as sustainability, nutrition, adoption of new technologies, and low income levels of farmers. The government is actively addressing these challenges through existing programs and policies, but long-term re-orientation is needed. Various schemes have been implemented to revive the agriculture sector and improve farmers' economic conditions. Although Indian agriculture contributes 8% to the country's Gross Value Added and plays a vital role in poverty alleviation and food self-sufficiency, low farmer income and food insecurity persist. The government is working to improve the welfare of farmers through financial support, training, subsidies, and other forms of assistance. However, only a limited number of farmers have benefited from these schemes, and the government should make more efforts to reach out to farmers and ensure proper access to these benefits. Effectively implementing the schemes in remote areas and ensuring that the benefits reach vulnerable sections of society are the main challenges. Strengthening social mobilization and community participation is crucial for the sustainability of these welfare schemes.

Introduction:

The agriculture sector plays a significant role in India's economy, contributing around 8% to the country's Gross Value Added (GVA) during the financial year 2023-24 (MSPI-GOI 2023). The Indian agriculture sector has effectively reduced poverty rates from 90% to 15%. This has been achieved despite a decrease in the sector's contribution to the country's workforce, which currently stands at 48.9%, compared to 75% during the time of independence (Acharya 2020). Despite significant improvements in agricultural production, India continues to face challenges in achieving economic satisfaction for its farmers and ensuring food and nutrition security for its population. Despite becoming a net exporter of agricultural products, the country still ranks 71 out of 113 countries in the Global Food Security Index (GFSI 2020). India has a wealth of arable land, with 15 agro-climatic zones that can support the growth of a variety of crops. However, the average productivity of many crops remains low. This paradox highlights the need for continued efforts to address these issues and achieve remarkable milestones in the agricultural sector. The Indian government is tirelessly striving to improve the well-being of farmers by implementing various schemes and addressing the shortcomings of the existing system. However, farmers are facing increasing challenges in accurately predicting rainfall, soil conditions, and groundwater levels, all of which have a significant impact on their agricultural activities. Furthermore, the financial condition of farmers remains stagnant due to the high cost of inputs, unpredictable weather patterns, and low prices for their produce. These issues continue to persist and hinder the progress of the agricultural sector in India (Chandel et al 2021). The review assesses the Indian government's efforts in addressing agricultural challenges through various schemes and initiatives. It analyzes data, identifies gaps, and suggests solutions. It discusses programs like the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture and the National Food Security Mission and explores the potential of big data and digitalized agriculture. Overall, the review offers a comprehensive analysis of the government's initiatives and their impact on the agricultural sector.

Objectives:

1. To know the various Schemes and programmes for farmers by Govt of India.
2. To study the importance and need of the above schemes in agriculture & allied sectors.

Methodology:

The study is conducted by utilizing secondary data sources, such as research articles, journals, theses, newsletters, websites, social media, and newspapers. These sources have been utilized to carry out the study effectively.

Government of India Schemes in Agriculture & Allied Sectors

Soil Health Card Scheme

The Soil Health Card scheme in India aims to assess and improve the health of soil used for farming. Farmers are provided with a report that includes information on soil nutrients and recommendations for fertilizer and soil amendments. The scheme's objectives include issuing soil health cards every two years, promoting soil testing, and reducing cultivation costs. The government covers the cost of sample collection, testing, and distribution of the cards.

PM PRANAM: PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth:

The demand for fertilizers in India has surged, leading to increased subsidy expenditure. To tackle this, the government has introduced the PM PRANAM scheme to encourage sustainable agriculture practices and reduce the usage of chemical fertilizers. The scheme incentivizes states to cut down on chemical fertilizer usage and aims to reduce the subsidy burden. It was launched in the Budget 2023-24.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is an Indian government scheme aimed at improving irrigation coverage and water use efficiency. It combines existing schemes, promotes efficient water use, and encourages sustainable water conservation practices. Funding is shared between the central and state governments in a 60:40 ratio.

Kisan Credit Card

The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, introduced by NABARD in 1998, provides credit to farmers for farming activities. It was later expanded to include investment credit for allied and non-farm activities. The scheme was further simplified in 2012, allowing for the issuance of electronic Kisan Credit Cards. The main objectives of the scheme are to meet farmers' short-term credit needs for crop cultivation, post-harvest expenses, marketing loans, household consumption, working capital, and investment credit. The credit limit is determined based on factors such as the scale of finance for the crop, cultivated area, post-harvest and household needs, farm asset maintenance expenses, and insurance coverage. For marginal farmers, a flexible credit limit of ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 is provided, taking into

account their land and crops, including post-harvest storage needs, farm expenses, and consumption requirements.

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi:

PM-KISAN is a government scheme launched in February 2019 to provide financial support to land-holding farmers through direct benefit transfer. The objective is to assist farmers in meeting their financial needs and purchasing necessary inputs. Under this scheme, eligible farmers receive a financial benefit of Rs. 6000 per annum per family. More than 3 lakh crores have been disbursed to over 11 crore beneficiary farmer families through various installments. The responsibility of identifying beneficiaries and verifying their data lies with the respective state/UT government, and the benefits are transferred directly to their Aadhaar linked bank accounts through the DBT system.

National Food Security Mission:

The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Government of India in October 2007 to increase food grain production and enhance food security. The objectives of the scheme include increasing production of rice and pulses, restoring soil fertility, creating employment opportunities, and enhancing farm-level economy. The scheme is implemented through active engagement of stakeholders at various levels, promoting improved technologies, and closely monitoring fund flow. The NFSM has three components focused on rice, wheat, and pulses respectively. The scheme operates at national, state, district, and project management team levels. It adopts strategies such as speedy implementation, promotion of improved technologies, integration with district plans, and constant monitoring and evaluation. The scheme is funded as per the guidelines and is open to farmers and their dependents. It covers identified districts in different states for the production of rice, wheat, pulses, and coarse cereals.

National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm:

The National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) aims to increase the production of edible oilseeds in India and reduce the country's reliance on imports. Currently, India imports approximately 9 million tonnes of palm oil every year. The mission's objective is to expand the area of oil palm cultivation and increase the production of crude palm oil. By 2025-26, the target is to increase the oil palm cultivation area to 10 lakh hectares and raise crude palm oil production from 0.27 lakh tonnes to 11.20 lakh tonnes. The strategy for achieving these targets includes increasing seedling

production, improving productivity, promoting drip irrigation, and shifting from low-yielding cereals to oil palm. The implementation of the mission will involve collaboration between various stakeholders, with funding shared between the central and state governments. The implementation will take place in selected states and districts, based on recommendations from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State authorities. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and other states show potential for oil palm cultivation.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is a scheme that aims to promote the holistic growth and development of the Indian horticulture sector. It covers various crops and provides technical assistance and advice to state horticultural missions. The objectives include increasing farmer income, improving productivity, and supporting rural youth skill development. Activities under the scheme focus on different stages of horticulture production, including nursery establishment, orchard expansion, rejuvenation, protected cultivation, organic farming, water resource development, and mechanization. While the scheme has contributed to increased horticulture production, challenges persist, such as post-harvest losses and infrastructure gaps. However, initiatives such as planting material production and the promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations are steps in the right direction for increasing productivity.

Rashtriya Gokul Mission

The Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) aims to conserve and improve indigenous bovine breeds in India. It focuses on increasing milk production and productivity for the benefit of small and marginal farmers. The mission will continue under the Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojna from 2021 to 2026. Objectives of RGM include enhancing bovine productivity, promoting high-quality breeding bulls, expanding artificial insemination services, and conserving indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds. Funding primarily comes from grants, with some subsidies available. The mission includes activities such as bull production, strengthening semen stations, implementing IVF technology, establishing breed multiplication farms, expanding the artificial insemination network, promoting sex-sorted semen, implementing the National Digital Livestock Mission, supporting gaushalas, and facilitating skill development and research in bovine breeding.

National Livestock Mission (NLM)

The National Livestock Mission (NLM) was launched in 2014-15 to improve the lives of livestock keepers and farmers, particularly smallholders. It aims to reduce the gap in feed and fodder availability, conserve indigenous breeds, increase productivity, and provide livelihood opportunities. The NLM has four sub-missions, including breed conservation, breeding programs, organized breeding, and addressing sanitary and phytosanitary issues. It supports state piggery farms, import of germplasm, fodder and feed development, and skill development. The NLM aims to strengthen extension services and is open to all states for sustainable livestock development.

e-NAM

The eNAM is an electronic trading platform in India aiming to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. It is implemented by the SFAC under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The objectives of eNAM are to integrate markets, streamline procedures, provide better marketing opportunities, establish quality assaying systems, and promote stable prices and availability of quality produce. The mechanism involves enacting provisions, undergoing reforms, levying market fees, conducting electronic auctions, ensuring connectivity and equipment, and making payments through the DBT system..

Krishi Udan Scheme

The Ministry of Civil Aviation's A2A (Agriculture to Aviation) scheme is aimed at promoting the transportation of agricultural produce through air. The scheme focuses on utilizing drones and biofuel in the agricultural sector, and aims to enhance the value of agricultural products. Key features include waiving charges at selected airports for Indian freighters, establishing cargo terminals at airports, and encouraging states to reduce taxes on Aviation Turbine Fuel. The E-Kushal online platform will aid in coordinating and monitoring the scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) is an umbrella scheme in India aimed at modernizing processing, reducing agri-waste, and supplementing agriculture. It includes schemes such as Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, and more. The scheme focuses on creating modern infrastructure for food processing, reducing post-harvest losses, increasing value addition, establishing effective linkages between producers and markets, ensuring food safety and quality, and developing human resources in the food processing industry. With a financial allocation of Rs. 6,000 crore, PMKSY is expected to

create modern infrastructure, provide better prices to farmers, generate employment opportunities, reduce wastage, and enhance the export of processed foods.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is a central sector scheme that aims to provide financial support to farmers facing crop loss or damage. It has uniform premium rates, no upper limit on government subsidy, and removes the cap on premium rates. Technology is used to expedite claim payments and minimize crop-cutting experiments. The scheme is open to all farmers, with compulsory coverage for those with crop loans or Kisan Credit Cards. It will be implemented in collaboration with state governments and is expected to provide 75-80% subsidy to farmers, ensuring income stability and supporting sustainable agriculture.

Namo Drone Didi Scheme:

Prime Minister Modi announced a goal to create two crore Lakhpati Didis in rural areas. The Drone Didi scheme will train 15,000 female members of self-help groups to operate drones. The government has allocated Rs. 1261 Cr for this scheme. The objective is to empower women financially and make them independent. The drones will benefit their livelihoods and the agriculture industry. The government aims to support farmers and fulfill socio-economic rights. 15,000 drones will be provided to self-help groups over three years. Prime Minister Modi launched the program and opened the first-ever Mahila Kisan Drone Kendra. Women empowerment and socio-economic development are key focuses.

Farmer First Programme:

The Farmer FIRST program aims to improve collaboration between farmers and scientists for technology development and application. It focuses on innovative solutions, feedback, and involving multiple stakeholders. The program aims to enhance the farmer-scientist interface, integrate viable technologies, develop modules for farm women, study technology performance, build networks, and institutionalize the process. It involves identifying target villages, diagnosing problems, developing action plans, implementing modules, monitoring and evaluating outcomes, and sharing knowledge. The program's components include improving the farmer-scientist interface, applying and assembling technology, building partnerships and institutions, and mobilizing content.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana is a government scheme for small and marginal farmers. It provides a minimum assured pension of Rs. 3000 per month to eligible farmers after they turn 60. The scheme is voluntary and farmers make monthly contributions. If the farmer dies, the spouse receives 50% of the pension. The scheme also allows for continued participation or an exit option in case of disability. If a subscriber exits within ten years, only their contributions will be returned. After ten years, the contributions along with interest will be returned. If both the subscriber and spouse die, the corpus will be credited back to the fund.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan

The PM KUSUM scheme, launched in 2019, aims to provide clean energy to farmers. It has three components: decentralized grid-connected renewable power plants, standalone solar-powered agriculture pumps, and solarizing grid-connected agriculture pumps. Farmers receive subsidies for buying solar pumps, with 60% directly transferred to their bank accounts. The scheme promotes stable income, energy security, and reduced pollution. Challenges include regulations, technical difficulties, and lack of awareness. Suggestions to overcome these challenges include extending scheme timelines, streamlining land regulations, and adopting smart solutions. Overall, PM KUSUM promotes clean energy, enhances farmer income, and encourages sustainable agriculture practices.

Paramparagath Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana is a scheme that aims to promote and support organic farming practices among farmers. It includes activities like model organic cluster demonstrations, PGS certification, manure management, and conversion of land into organic. The scheme allocates resources for mobilizing farmers, ensuring quality control, and branding organic produce. A communication plan is developed to effectively convey key messages through workshops and training programs. Implementation activities include certification, land conversion, input production, and branding. The scheme focuses on fund management, monitoring, and reporting to ensure proper utilization of resources. Overall, the scheme aims to promote organic farming, support farmers, and facilitate the production and marketing of organic produce.

National Mission on Natural Farming

The Natural Farming scheme promotes chemical-free traditional farming, integrating crops, trees, and livestock with biodiversity. It aims to popularize alternative farming systems and collect

natural farming practices. Key features include nutrient supply from air, water, sunlight, and soil microorganisms, farm-made bio-cultures instead of fertilizers, soil cover, organic mulch, and natural pesticides. The scheme targets 7.5 lakh hectares through 15,000 farmer clusters, providing ₹15,000 per hectare per year for on-farm input production infrastructure. State governments implement the scheme, focusing on documentation, promotion, research, awareness, and certification. Dry lands, rainfed areas, and tribal areas receive priority, and coordination with other schemes and departments is ensured.

National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)

NICRA is a project by ICAR that focuses on research, technology demonstrations, grants, and capacity building in climate-resilient agriculture. It aims to develop technologies and practices to help farmers adapt to climate change, provide research grants, promote innovation, and enhance agricultural production resilience. NICRA also offers policy inputs for integrating climate-resilient agriculture into planning.

Pradhana Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) launched by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) aims to develop a sustainable and inclusive fisheries sector. The scheme focuses on increasing fish production, improving post-harvest management, doubling the incomes of fishers and fish farmers, and boosting agriculture GVA and exports. It divides into the Central Sector Scheme (CS) and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), with different funding patterns. The PMMSY targets fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, vendors, development corporations, self-help groups, and fisheries cooperatives. Implementation involves the central and state governments, NFDB, state fisheries development boards, and other relevant agencies. The PMMSY aims to promote sustainable practices, enhance productivity and income, and provide social and economic security in the fisheries sector.

Sagar Parikrama

The Sagar Parikrama Phase-III was launched by Parshottam Rupala, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, on 19th February 2023. Its objective is to interact with fishermen and coastal communities to provide information on fisheries-related schemes and demonstrate solidarity with fisherfolk, fish farmers, and stakeholders. The Parikrama will travel along the Maharashtra coast, stopping at various locations before concluding in Mumbai. The focus is on

achieving a sustainable balance between marine fisheries resources, livelihoods of coastal communities, and the protection of marine ecosystems. The initiative will address challenges faced by fishers and stakeholders and improve their economic prospects through schemes like PMMSY and KCC. The Parikrama is a symbolic journey aiming to showcase solidarity with fisherfolk, fish farmers, and stakeholders as part of the 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and will be accompanied by officials, representatives, entrepreneurs, and scientists from the fisheries sector.

Suggestions:

- The policy-making process for schemes should involve stakeholders in agriculture, such as FPOs, farmer organizations, agricultural scientists, officials of agriculture, and Panchayath Raj institutions.
- Farmers who successfully implement the schemes should be recognized and awarded.
- A dedicated app should be developed for all agricultural and allied sector schemes.
- Instead of providing financial assistance, schemes should focus on providing "AGRI INPUT KITS" to farmers.
- Subsidies should be provided for farm implements, especially for women, to reduce drudgery.
- Schemes for wild boar management should be implemented.
- Publicity campaigns should be conducted to raise awareness among farmers about the schemes.
- A proper feedback mechanism should be established to gather input from farmers on the effectiveness of the schemes.

Conclusion:

The Indian government has implemented various agriculture development schemes aimed at boosting agricultural production and improving the livelihoods and income of farmers. However, despite the awareness among farmers about these schemes, only a limited number of them are able to benefit from them. To address this issue, the government needs to make additional efforts to reach out to farmers and ensure they have proper access to the benefits of these schemes. One of the main challenges is effectively implementing these schemes in remote and inaccessible areas. Moreover, it is crucial to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the most vulnerable sections of society, including poor people, women, and children. In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of these welfare schemes and programs, there is a need to strengthen social mobilization and encourage community participation.

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