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Original Article**Government Initiative for Farmers in India****Anita Bhawariya***Research scholar***Corresponding Author: anitabhawariya662@gmail.com**Received: 29/09/2023**Published: 13/10/2023***Introduction**

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, with over 50% of the population dependent on it for their livelihood. In recent years, the implementation of new technologies has helped Indian farmers to prosper and has also contributed to the growth of the economy. One of the major ways in which technology is helping Indian farmers is through precision farming. This involves the use of modern equipment and technology to optimize crop yields as well as cause less harm to the environment. These technologies include modern agricultural implements that enable farmers to achieve higher crop yields with fewer resources. Lesser need for water, soil optimization elements such as fertilizers, and less workforce lead to cost-effectiveness and higher profits. These are just a few of the many schemes and initiatives that have introduced to improve the lives of farmers and the agriculture sector in India. These schemes have helped to improve the income of farmers, reduce their financial burden, and make the agriculture sector more sustainable.

Soil Health Card Scheme:

Launched in 2015, the scheme has been introduced to assist State Governments to issue Soil Health Cards to all farmers in the country. The Soil Health Cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. As on 11.7.2017, against target of 253 lakh soil samples, all 253 lakh soil samples have been collected and 245 lakh (97%) samples have been tested. Against target of 12 crore Soil Health Cards, so far 9 crore (76%) cards have been distributed to farmers.

Neem Coated Urea (NCU)

Scheme being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance availability of nitrogen to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. NCU slows down the release of fertilizer and makes it available to the crop in an effective manner. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured and imported urea is now neem coated. The reports from field are positive. The expected saving is 10% of urea consumption, thereby resulting in reduced cost of cultivation and improved soil health management.

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices. Under this scheme, an area of 5 lakh acre is targeted to be covered through 10,000 clusters of 50 acre each, from the year 2015-16 to 2017-18. So far 7208 clusters have been formed and remaining clusters would be formed during 2017-18.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

Launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani', the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency. PMKSY not only focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation, but also creating protective irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' and 'Jal Sinchan'. Micro irrigation is also incentivized through subsidy to ensure 'Per drop-More crop'. The target under micro-irrigation for the year 2016-17 was 8 lakh ha. against which 8.39 lakh ha have been covered.

National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)

The National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) envisages initiation of e-marketing platform at national level and to support creation of infrastructure to enable e-marketing in 585 regulated markets across the country by March 2018. This innovative market process is revolutionizing agri

markets by ensuring better price discovery, bringing in transparency and competition to enable farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce moving towards 'One Nation One Market'. A target of integrating 400 markets to e-NAM had been set for March, 2017 against which 455 markets in 13 States have been on boarded as on 30.6.2017. As on 2.7.2017, 47.95 lakh farmers and 91,500 traders have registered on e-NAM portal.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)/ Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS):

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) & Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) were launched from Kharif 2016 to provide comprehensive crop insurance coverage from pre-sowing to post harvest losses against non-preventable natural risks. These schemes are only risk mitigation tools available to farmers at extremely low premium rates payable by farmers at 2% for Kharif crops, 1.5% for Rabi Crop and 5% for annual commercial/horticultural crops. The balance of actuarial premium is shared by the Central and State Governments on 50 : 50 basis. The schemes are voluntary for States and available in areas and crops that are notified by the State Governments. Further, the schemes are compulsory for loanee farmers and voluntary for non-loanee farmers. During Kharif 2016 season, a total of 23 States implemented both PMFBY (21) and RWBCS (12) and during Rabi 2016-17, 24 States and 3 Union Territories implemented PMFBY (25) and RWBCIS (9). Overall coverage of both the schemes is 401.52 lakh farmers and 385 lakh ha. area insured for a sum of Rs. 133106 crore in Kharif 2016 and 172.67 lakh farmers and 195 lakh ha. area insured for a sum of Rs. 71696 crore during Rabi 2016-17 season.

Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS)

The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2016-17, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts, the benefit of interest subvention will be available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) has been formulated for enhancing agricultural productivity especially in rainfed areas focusing on integrated farming, water use efficiency, soil health management and synergizing resource conservation.

Schemes under NMSA

Rainfed Area Development (RAD): RAD is being implemented by RFS Division

Soil Health Management (SHM): SHM is being implemented by INM Division

Sub Mission on Agro Forestry (SMAF): SMAF is being implemented by NRM Division

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY): PKVY is being implemented by INM Division

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

Har Khet ko Pani "Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana"

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been formulated with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation 'Har Khet ko pani' and improving water use efficiency 'More crop per drop' in a focused manner with end-to-end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities.

Objectives:

Achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level (preparation of district level and, if required, sub district level water use plans).

Enhance the physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (Har Khet ko pani).

Integration of water source, distribution and its efficient use, to make best use of water through appropriate technologies and practices.

Improve on - farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage and increase availability both in duration and extent.

Enhance the adoption of precision - irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop).

Enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices.

Soil and Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI): Being implemented by RFS Division

National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA): Being implemented by RFS Division
 Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER): Being implemented by INM Division
 National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF): Being implemented by INM Division
 Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQC&TI): implemented by INM Division.

Gramin Bhandaran Yojana

Gramin Bhandaran Yojana or Rural Godown Scheme, is an Indian government initiative to offer subsidies to individuals or organizations which build or repair rural godowns.

Objective of this Scheme:

Create scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas.

To meet the requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce and agricultural inputs.

Promotion of grading, standardization and quality control of agricultural produce to improve their marketability.

Prevent distress sale immediately after harvest by providing the facility of pledge financing and marketing credit by strengthening agricultural marketing infrastructure in the country.

Livestock insurance

This scheme aims to provide protection mechanism to the farmers and cattle rearers against any eventual loss of their animals due to death and to demonstrate the benefit of the insurance of livestock to the people and popularize it with the ultimate goal of attaining qualitative improvement in livestock and their products.

The rural insurance policy is designed to offer insurance cover to indigenous cattle owned by farmers, cooperative societies, dairy farms and the like. Security in case of death of cattle shall be provided for the following: -Natural accidents. (Flood, famine, earthquake, etc.)Unpredictable circumstances. (Accidental in Origin.)Surgical Operations.Terrorist Act.Strikes and RiotsCivil Commotion risk.

Soil health card scheme

Launched in 2015

the scheme has been introduced to assist State Governments to issue Soil Health Cards to all farmers in the country.

The Soil Health Cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP)

Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP) was implemented as a sub-scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

To improve quality of life of farmers' especially, small and marginal farmers by offering a complete package of activities to maximize farm returns.

Increasing agricultural productivity of rainfed areas in a sustainable manner by adopting appropriate farming system-based approaches.

To minimise the adverse impact of possible crop failure due to drought, flood or un-even rainfall distribution through diversified and composite farming system.

Restoration of confidence in rainfed agriculture by creating sustained employment opportunities through improved on-farm technologies and cultivation practices

Enhancement of farmer's income and livelihood support for reduction of poverty in rainfed areas.

Conclusion

The Indian agriculture sector has been making significant strides in recent years by implementing various technologies, policies, and cost-effective and environment-friendly farming practices. The adoption of precision farming, mechanization, and government initiatives such as PMFBY and PM-KISAN has helped farmers increase their efficiency, productivity, and profits.

Additionally, the adoption of organic farming, water-efficient irrigation systems, Agroforestry, and conservation agriculture is becoming beneficial for the long-term growth of the agricultural sector. With the continued implementation of such technologies and policies, the future of Indian agriculture looks promising and will play a vital role in the growth of the Indian economy.

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