

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana: A Brief Overview

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Aquaculture and fisheries are an important source of food and nutrition as well as one of the prominent employment and income generating sector in India. India is the second largest fish producer which provides employment to more than 20 million fish farmers at the grassroot level. Further, in agricultural value chain also, it contributes near-about 5.43 per cent of the world's fish production. Fish is one of the healthiest options to relieve hunger and malnutrition as it is a rich and economical source of animal protein. The Gross Value Added (GVA) of the fishing industry in the national economy for 2018–19 was 1.24 per cent of the overall GVA and 7.28 per cent of the GVA of agriculture. From 2014-15 to 2018-19, Fisheries sector in India has shown impressive growth with an average annual growth rate of 10.88 per cent during the year. As a part of "Atmanirbhar Bharat", the Indian government established the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) on 10th September 2020, seeing the enormous potential for growth of the fisheries industry. The plan's objective is to construct a thorough framework and address infrastructural shortcomings in the fishing industry by fostering the sector's sustainable growth over a five-year period (2020-2025). PMMSY was introduced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2019–20 federal budget.

Implementation of PMMSY

The Central Sector Scheme (CS) and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme are the two separate parts of the umbrella programme PMMSY. In a centrally sponsored scheme, all the sub-components and activities are carried out by the States/UTs, and the costs are shared between the State and the Center. In a central sector scheme, the project costs are covered by the



central government. The scheme used a “cluster-based approach” to build fisheries clusters. It targets on activities with potential to generate employment such as seaweed and ornamental fish cultivation. It also promotes breeding methods for producing high-quality brood, feed, seed, and species diversity. Furthermore, PMMSY programme is expected to receive an investment of Rs. 20,050 billion. This investment is the largest ever made investment in the fisheries industry, which is segregated into various components as shown in the figure 1.

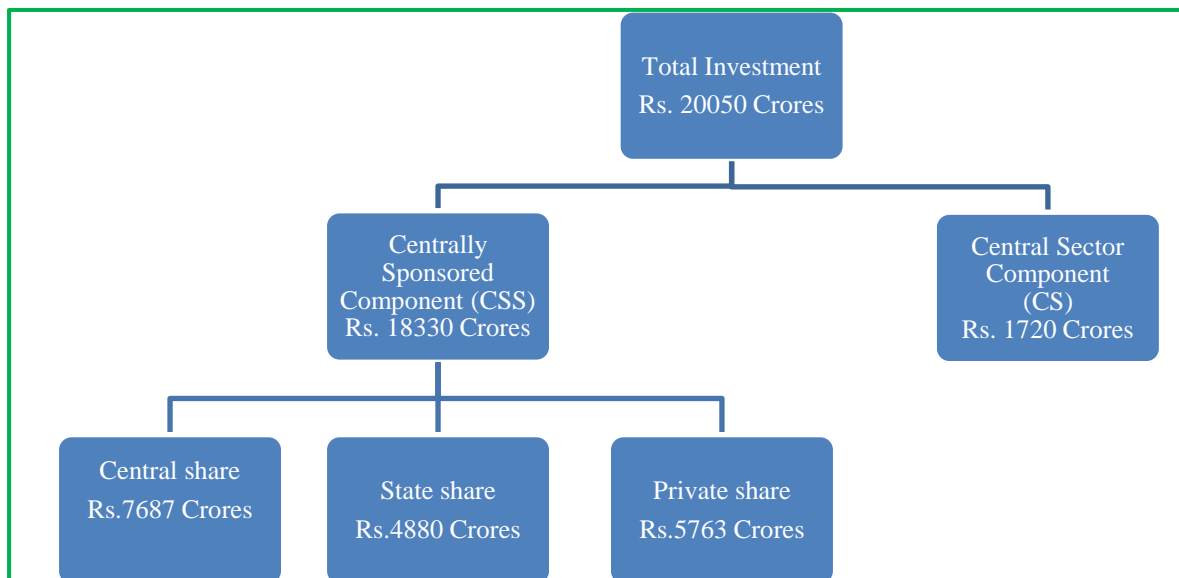


Figure 1: Fund allocation in PMMSY

Objectives of PMMSY

1. It would help to improve the supply chain's present profile, from the wrench gateway to the retail outlets.
2. It will aid in the development of the fisheries sector of India and will also improve the overall agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA), exports and employment opportunities.
3. It plays an important role in ascertaining the potential of fisheries in an economical, efficient, comprehensive, and harmonious manner.
4. It enhances the novel technique in modernizing the value chain under which post-harvest management and quality improvement practices are considered.
5. It ensures the efficient use of land and water resources to excel the fish production and productivity.
6. Apart from these, the scheme also provides social, economical and physical security to fish farmers and fishermen.

Targets of PMSSY on Fisheries

- To increase the fish production from 137.58 lakh metric tons (2018-19) to 220 lakh metric tons by 2024.
- To maintain an average annual growth of about 9 per cent in fish production.
- To enhance the share of agricultural GVA in the agriculture sector from 7.28 per cent in 2018-19 to around 9 per cent by 2024-25.
- To enhance the export earnings from Rs 4689 crore (2018-19) to around Rs 100000 crore.
- To increase the aquaculture productivity from the present national average of 3 tons per hectare to roughly 5 tons per hectare.
- To reduce the post-harvest loss from 20-25 per cent to near about 10 per cent.
- To increase the consumption of domestic fish from 5-6 kg to about 12 kg per person.
- To create additional 55 lakhs direct and indirect gainful job opportunities in the fisheries sector along the supply and value chain.

Beneficiaries of PMMSY

The beneficiaries under the scheme include fish farmers, workers and fish sellers or vendors directly engaged in the fisheries sector. The scheme also benefits various government bodies and non-government federations, Fisheries Cooperative Societies or Associations, FPOs, Fisheries Development Corporations, Self Help Groups (SHGs) or Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and individual entrepreneur. Apart from these, it also provides benefit to SC, ST, females, and differently-abled people.

Conclusions

Aquaculture and fishery sector together contributes around 7.28 per cent share of overall agricultural GDP and provides a steady growth in the total Gross Value Added output. Considering the immense potential of fisheries sector, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, has rolled out 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' (PMMSY) with a focus on doubling farmer's income through sustainable developments. Fishermen, being the active member of the scheme, is the obvious integral part of the PMMSY scheme. Through effective legislation, marketing, and infrastructural assistance, the government hopes to make India a hub for fish and aquatic goods. This programme also promotes aquaculture by providing loans in a quick and hassle-free manner to the beneficiaries. Additionally, it aims to include all fishermen in the farmer welfare programmes and social security schemes with extended coverage for accident insurance. This scheme is definitely going to provide humongous benefits to the fishermen and will be going to make a significant contribution in the agricultural GDP in the near future.