



Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana: Empowering to Agrarian Entrepreneurs

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Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana is a novel scheme launched by the Union Government of India to support farm community. Under this scheme, farmers able to get direct financial support, farming tools, crop insurance, and better market access for their farm produce. This scheme was announced in the Union Budget-2025 to make farming easier, modern, and more profitable. This is a groundbreaking government initiative launched to revolutionize Indian agriculture by making it more productive, sustainable, and financially rewarding for farmers. During Union Budget 2025-26, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced PMDDKY scheme on February 1, 2025, and subsequently approved by the Union Cabinet on July 16, 2025. Our Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Damodardas Modi officially launched this scheme on 12th October, 2025 in the country. Initially, it will cover 100 underperforming districts where agrarian system facing challenges of low productivity of crops, water scarcity, and limited access to resources across the country. The annual budget allotted for this scheme was ₹24,000 crore in 2025-26 with total ₹1.44 lakh crore for six years (2025-26 to 2030-31). The primary objective of PMDDKY scheme is to support about 1.7 crore farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers owning less than 2 hectares of land, who constitute 86% of India's farming population.

Operation system of PMDDKY

The scheme operates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, with oversight from a National Steering Committee, state-level nodal committees, and District Dhan Dhaanya Samitis led by District Collectors. These bodies ensure tailored implementation based on local needs, monitored through a digital dashboard tracking 117 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) like crop yields, loan disbursals, and storage usage. PMDDKY consolidates 36 existing agricultural schemes across 11 ministries, including PM-KISAN (cash transfers), PMFBY (crop insurance), PMKSY (irrigation), and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), into a unified program to streamline efforts and maximize impact. Drawing inspiration from NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), which transformed 112 underdeveloped districts in health, education, and infrastructure, PMDDKY focuses on regions with low crop yields (e.g., wheat yields below 3.5 tonnes/hectare compared to the national average), moderate cropping intensity (below 155%, meaning fewer than 1.55 crop cycles per year), and limited access to credit. By providing irrigation, storage, loans, training, and modern technology support, PMDDKY seeks to boost farmer incomes, ensure food security, and advance Atmanirbhar Bharat that is self-reliant India. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has described it as a

cornerstone for creating a “poverty-free India” by empowering rural communities through sustainable agriculture.

Selection Criteria: Districts are selected based on three key indicators where performance is lagging:

1. **Low agricultural productivity** (e.g., wheat yield below 3.5 tonnes/hectare).
2. **Moderate crop intensity** (fewer than 1.55 crop cycles per year).
3. **Limited access to agricultural credit** (low penetration of KCCs/bank loans).

Geographic Inclusion: To ensure balanced regional development, a minimum of one district will be selected from every State and Union Territory. The list of the 100 selected districts was finalized by the end of July 2025. Among these eight districts are selected from Rajasthan state namely Barmer, Jaisalmer, Nagaur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Pali, Jalore and Churu.

Role of PMDDKY scheme

1. Technology Adoption and Skilling: The most crucial role of PMDDKY is to bridge the gap between lab-to-land and equip the farmer with modern and productive skills.

Precision Farming Skills: The scheme funds and conducts intensive training programs, often through KrishiVigyanKendras (KVKs) and agricultural universities, focusing on precision agriculture. This includes skills on using Drones for effective and targeted spraying of fertilizers/pesticides and IoT Sensors and Mobile Apps for monitoring soil health, weather advisories, and optimizing irrigation schedules.

Impact: Turns the farmer into a data-driven decision-maker, leading to higher yields (expected 20-30% increase) and reduced input costs.

Specialized Training Programs: Free workshops/trainings will be organized on specific high-value activities and moving beyond staple crops. Mostly trainings to be emphasized on integrated pest management, post-harvest management, seed quality assessment, and setting up of processing units.

Global Exposure: The scheme includes a provision for fully funded international exposure visits for select progressive farmers to learn best farm practices (e.g., drip irrigation in Israel or greenhouse technology in the Netherlands), fostering a global outlook in the skilled farmer.

2. Resource efficiency and sustainability: PMDDKY guides the skilled farmer toward resource-efficient and climate-resilient practices, making their livelihood sustainable.

Water use efficiency: It provides substantial subsidies (50-80%) for adopting micro-irrigation systems like drip and sprinklers systems under the converged Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana components.

Impact: This saves 30-50% of water, enabling the farmer to take up multiple crop cycles (increasing cropping intensity) and farm year-round, even in dry regions.

Soil Health Management: This scheme promotes the use of bio-fertilizers and organic farming techniques, offering subsidies on these inputs and training on chemical-free methods.

Impact: Reduces dependency on expensive chemical inputs, restores soil health, and allows the skilled farmer to tap into the high-value organic produce market.

Crop Diversification: It incentivizes the shift from water-intensive mono cropping to high-value crops like pulses, horticulture, and allied activities (dairy, poultry, and beekeeping) that offer better returns and reduce risk.

3. Financial and credit access: The scheme removes financial barriers, allowing the skilled farmer to invest in modernizing their farm. **Subsidized capital investment:** It ensures targeted and high subsidies for the purchase of farm machinery (tractors, power tillers, specialized harvesters) and essential inputs like high-yielding seeds and bio-fertilizers.

Enhanced credit flow: PMDDKY ensures an expansion of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and better access to institutional loans—both short-term (for working capital) and long-term (for asset creation) at concessional interest rates.

Impact: The farmer can make timely investments without resorting to high-interest private moneylenders, a key step toward financial independence.

4. Market linkages and value realization: The scheme transforms the farmer from a mere producer into a 'Market Maestro' by securing better returns for their efforts.

Post-harvest infrastructure: It prioritizes the creation of village and block-level warehouses, cold storage units, and farm-gate processing centers.

Impact: This dramatically reduces post-harvest losses (expected cut to under 5%) of perishable goods, allowing the skilled farmer to store produce and sell when market prices are favorable, rather than immediately after harvest.

Direct market access: This scheme facilitates free access to digital platforms (like e-NAM and dedicated scheme apps), enabling the farmer to connect directly with bulk buyers, food processors, and exporters.

Impact: With the elimination of market middlemen, the farmer is expected to realize 20-40% higher profits on their farm produce.

References

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