

3. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana – Schemes

The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), launched in 2015 under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, has emerged as a flagship initiative to promote organic farming in India.

Concept of Organic Farming

Definition – Organic farming is an ecologically balanced and sustainable agricultural system that avoids the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Core Principle – It relies on natural inputs such as compost, green manure, crop residues, biofertilizers, and biological pest control to maintain soil fertility and ecological balance.

Goal – To produce safe, nutritious, and high-quality food while conserving biodiversity and enhancing soil productivity for long-term sustainability.

Organic Farming in India – Global and National Status

Global Ranking (IFOAM 2022) – India ranks 4th globally in terms of certified organic area.

Largest Number of Farmers – India ranks 1st globally in terms of the number of organic farmers.

State-wise Area Distribution – Madhya Pradesh holds the largest area under organic certification, followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Karnataka.

Sikkim – India's First Organic State – Sikkim has achieved full organic certification across about 75,000 hectares, becoming the first 100% organic state in the world (recognized by FAO and UNEP).

Export Performance (2022–23) – Organic product exports from India stood at USD 708 million, indicating strong export potential given the global organic market size of USD 138 billion.

Advantages of Organic Farming

Healthier Food Products – Organic produce is free from harmful chemical residues and often has higher levels of essential nutrients, antioxidants, and taste quality.

Enhanced Soil Health – Practices like composting, crop rotation, and green manuring improve soil organic carbon, microbial diversity, and long-term fertility.

Climate Change Mitigation – Organic systems enhance carbon sequestration in soils and reduce emissions of nitrous oxide from synthetic fertilizers.

Biodiversity Conservation – Organic farms provide habitats for pollinators, earthworms, and beneficial insects, improving overall agro-ecosystem resilience.

Economic Opportunities – Farmers benefit from premium pricing, niche market access, reduced input costs, and the growing domestic and export demand for organic products.

Water Conservation – Reduced use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides helps maintain groundwater quality and reduce pollution runoff.

Organic Certification Systems in India

(a) National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

Nodal Ministry – Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Nature – A third-party certification system primarily meant for the export market.

Coverage – Production, processing, handling, storage, labeling, and export of organic products.

International Recognition – NPOP standards are recognized by the EU and Switzerland, and equivalence agreements exist with several countries, easing export procedures.

(b) Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India)

Nodal Ministry – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Nature – A community-based certification system, where farmers collectively certify each other through peer verification.

Objective – Empower small and marginal farmers to access domestic organic markets at low cost.

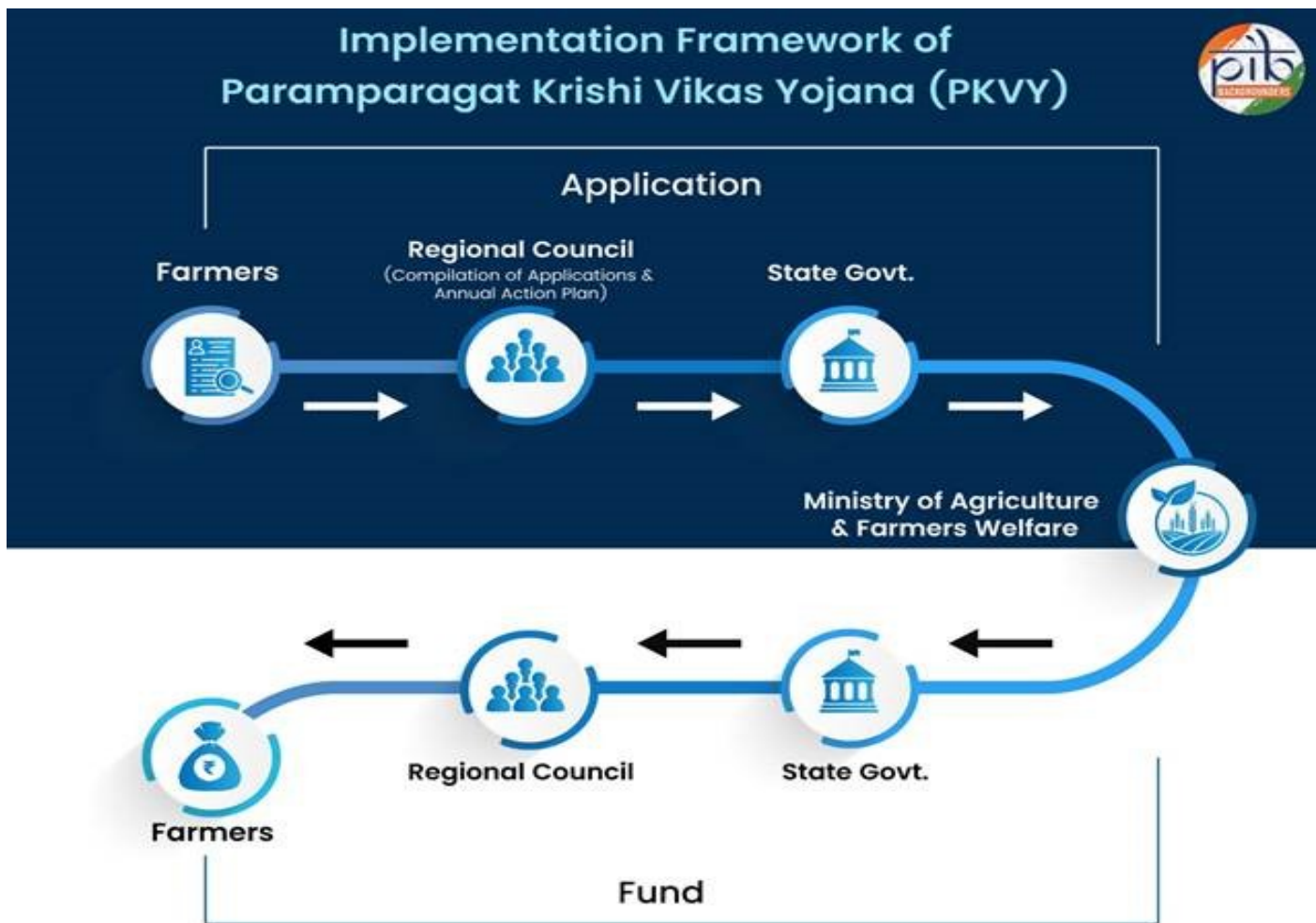
Key Principle – Trust, transparency, and participation—producers, consumers, and other stakeholders work together in certification.

(c) Food Safety Regulation (FSSAI)

Regulatory Framework – FSSAI mandates that all organic products sold in India must be certified under

either NPOP or PGS-India.

Labeling – Certified organic products bear the Jaivik Bharat Logo, symbolizing authenticity and adherence to organic standards.



Source: MyScheme Portal

Government Schemes and Initiatives

(a) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

Launched by – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (2015).

Objective – To promote cluster-based organic farming and provide end-to-end support from production to certification and marketing.

Cluster Model – Farmers are organized into groups covering 20 hectares each to ensure consistency and efficiency.

Financial Support – Assistance of ₹31,500 per hectare for 3 years for adopting organic farming practices.

Focus Areas – Compost units, organic input production, certification, branding, and direct marketing.

Outcome – Encourages eco-agriculture, boosts food safety, enhances farmers' income, and ensures environmental sustainability.

(b) Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)

Exclusive Focus – North Eastern States.

Aim – To develop **entire organic value chains** – from production and processing to certification and export.

Components – Farmer clusters, processing units, marketing infrastructure, and brand building.

Significance – Harnesses the naturally organic potential of NE states and provides livelihood opportunities.

(c) Large Area Certification (LAC) Programme (2020–21)

Purpose – To accelerate certification in regions with no history of chemical usage, such as tribal belts, islands, and eco-sensitive zones.

Advantage – Reduces the conversion period from 2–3 years to a few months, encouraging faster inclusion of such areas under certified organic systems.

(d) Jaivik Kheti Portal

Nature – A digital marketplace and knowledge portal connecting organic farmers, buyers, traders, and input suppliers.

Function – Facilitates marketing, certification, and awareness about organic practices under one platform.

Challenges in Organic Farming

Low Yield During Conversion Period – Farmers often face yield reduction during the initial years before soil fertility stabilizes.

Market Linkages – Limited access to reliable organic markets and supply chains affects profitability.

Certification Costs and Awareness – Complex certification procedures and lack of awareness among small farmers pose barriers.

Input Availability – Shortage of quality bio-inputs like organic manure and biopesticides at local levels.

Consumer Awareness – Domestic demand remains limited due to higher prices and low consumer trust in certification.

Way Forward

Scale Up Cluster Models – Expand PKVY clusters into large contiguous organic belts for better branding and infrastructure efficiency.

Strengthen Research and Extension – Encourage region-specific R&D on organic inputs, pest management, and soil fertility improvement.

Digital and Market Reforms – Promote e-commerce platforms like Jaivik Kheti and develop organic mandis for better price realization.

Skill Development and Youth Engagement – Train rural youth as “Green Entrepreneurs” in organic input production, certification, eco-tourism, and agri-startups.

Public Awareness – Campaigns under FSSAI’s Eat Right India initiative to encourage consumers toward organic products.

Integration with Climate Goals – Mainstream organic farming within National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and climate-smart agriculture policies.

Source – <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2175205>