

PM DHAN DHAANYA KRISHI YOJANA: SCHEME

NEWS: Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana: Scheme to develop 100 agri districts across country gets Cabinet go-ahead

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The Union Cabinet has approved the "Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana" (PM-DDKY) for six years starting 2025-26, aiming to uplift 100 districts with low agricultural productivity through a ₹24,000 crore annual outlay by converging 36 existing schemes. Inspired by the Aspirational District Programme, it focuses on enhancing productivity, promoting sustainable practices, improving infrastructure, and increasing credit access to foster self-reliance in agriculture.

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY): Boosting Agricultural Productivity

The Union Cabinet has approved the "Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana" for a **six-year period, commencing in 2025–26**. This ambitious scheme, announced in the Budget earlier this year, is designed to enhance agricultural productivity and promote sustainable practices across India.

Core Vision and Financial Outlay:

- **Aim:** To significantly increase agricultural productivity and foster sustainable practices.
- **Annual Outlay:** ₹24,000 crore.
- **Inspiration:** The scheme draws significant inspiration from **NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme**, indicating a focus on comprehensive development in identified areas.
- **Implementation Mechanism:** It will be implemented through the **convergence of 36 existing schemes** spanning across **11 Central Departments**, showcasing a holistic approach to agricultural development.

Detailed Objectives of PM-DDKY:

The scheme aims to uplift **100 districts** currently grappling with low agricultural productivity, low cropping intensity, and limited access to credit. Its multi-faceted objectives include:

- **Enhancing Agricultural Productivity:** Directly increasing the output from agricultural activities.
- **Promoting Crop Diversification:** Encouraging farmers to grow a wider variety of crops to improve soil health, reduce risks, and increase income potential.
- **Fostering Sustainable Agricultural Practices:** Promoting environmentally friendly farming methods that conserve natural resources and ensure long-term productivity.
- **Augmenting Post-Harvest Storage:** Improving storage facilities at the **panchayat** and **block levels** to minimize post-harvest losses and ensure better market access for farmers.
- **Improving Irrigation Infrastructure:** Developing and upgrading irrigation systems to ensure reliable water supply for agricultural land.

- **Facilitating Credit Availability:** Ensuring easier access to both **long-term and short-term credit** for farmers to invest in their agricultural operations.
- **Exclusive Focus:** This marks the **first scheme exclusively focused on agriculture and allied sectors**, signifying a dedicated push for this vital sector.

Implementation Strategy:

The PM-DDKY adopts a comprehensive strategy involving various stakeholders:

- **Multi-Level Convergence:** It will involve **State schemes** in addition to Central schemes, fostering a collaborative approach.
- **Local Partnerships:** The scheme will leverage **local partnerships with the private sector**, bringing in expertise and resources from non-governmental entities.

District Selection Criteria:

The selection of the 100 districts will be based on specific indicators to target areas most in need of intervention:

- **Key Identification Parameters:**
 - **Low productivity:** Areas with consistently lower crop yields.
 - **Low cropping intensity:** Districts where the land is used less frequently for crop production within an agricultural year.
 - **Cropping Intensity:** Refers to the number of crops grown on the same field within a given agricultural year. It measures how intensively the agricultural land is used for crop production.
 - **Less credit disbursement:** Regions with limited access to agricultural credit for farmers.
- **Associated Land Use Definitions:**
 - **Net Area Sown:** The total land area actually sown with crops or orchards during a year. If the same area is sown more than once, it is counted only once.
 - **Gross Cropped Area:** The total area sown during a year, including land sown more than once. Each sowing is counted separately. Also referred to as total cropped area.
- **State/UT Representation:** The number of selected districts per State/UT will be determined based on:
 - Share of **Net Cropped Area**
 - Operational holdings
 - **At least one district will be selected from every State and Union Territory**, ensuring broad geographical coverage.

Planning and Implementation Structure:

A structured governance framework is established for effective planning and execution:

- **Multi-Tier Committees:** Committees will be established at the **District, State, and National levels** to oversee the scheme.
- **District Agriculture and Allied Activities Plan:** A comprehensive plan will be finalized by the **District Dhan Dhaanya Samiti**, which will include **progressive farmers** as key stakeholders.
- **Alignment with National Goals:** District Plans will be designed to align with broader national agricultural objectives, such as:
 - Crop diversification
 - Water and soil conservation
 - **Self-sufficiency** in agriculture and allied sectors (**Atmanirbhar Bharat** objective)
 - Expansion of natural and organic farming

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Robust mechanisms are in place to track progress and ensure accountability:

- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** Progress in each Dhan-Dhaanya district will be tracked using **117 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**, providing a detailed measure of success.
- **Digital Dashboard:** A **digital dashboard** will provide updates on a **monthly basis**, ensuring transparency and real-time monitoring.
- **Central Nodal Officers:** **Central Nodal Officers** will be appointed for each district to regularly review implementation progress.
- **NITI Aayog Oversight:** **NITI Aayog** will also play a crucial role in reviewing and guiding the District Plans, providing strategic direction.

Expected Outcomes:

The PM-DDKY is anticipated to yield significant positive results for the agricultural sector and the nation:

- **Improvement in Productivity and Value Addition:** Expected increases in productivity and value addition across agriculture and allied sectors.
- **Creation of Local Livelihoods:** Generating employment opportunities and improving economic conditions at the local level.
- **Increase in Domestic Production:** Boosting overall agricultural output within the country.
- **Move Towards Self-Reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat):** Contributing significantly to India's goal of self-sufficiency in food and agricultural products.

- **National Indicator Upliftment:** As performance improves in these 100 districts, national agricultural indicators are also expected to **trend upward**, indicating broader positive impacts.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/dhan-dhaanya-krisi-vojana-scheme-to-develop-100-agri-districts-across-country-gets-cabinet-go-ahead-10131315/>