

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

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PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana: Transforming 100 Agricultural Districts

Context:

The Union Cabinet has approved the **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)** to transform the agricultural landscape in India. This scheme aims to uplift **100 agricultural districts** through the **convergence of 36 schemes across 11 central ministries**. It is inspired by the **Aspirational Districts Programme** of NITI Aayog and is the **first national initiative focusing exclusively on agriculture and allied sectors**.

Key Details:

- Launch Year: **2025-26**
- Duration: **6 years**
- Annual Budget: **₹24,000 crore**

Objectives of PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

- Announced in the **Union Budget 2025**.
- Focuses on districts with **low agricultural productivity, moderate crop intensity, and limited credit access**.
- The scheme has **five major goals**:
 - Improve **agricultural productivity**
 - Encourage **crop diversification** and **sustainable farming practices**

- Develop **post-harvest storage infrastructure** at the **panchayat and block level**
 - Strengthen **irrigation systems**
 - Ensure **access to both short-term and long-term credit**
 - The broader aim is to **enhance local livelihoods**, support **self-reliance in agriculture**, and improve **national farming performance** through focused interventions in lagging districts.
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Criteria for Selection of Districts

- **100 districts** will be selected using the following parameters:
 - **Low agricultural productivity**
 - **Moderate cropping intensity**
 - **Below-average credit availability** for farmers
 - As per **2021-22 data**, India's average cropping intensity was **155%**, with variation across states.
 - The number of districts from each state or Union Territory will depend on:
 - The state's share of **net cropped area**
 - The number of **farming households**
 - **Every state/UT will have at least one district** included in the scheme.
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Implementation Mechanism

- A **District Agriculture and Allied Activities Plan** will be prepared for each of the 100 selected districts.

- The plan will be developed by the **District Dhan-Dhaanya Samiti**, chaired by the **District Collector** and involving **progressive farmers**.
- Plans will be formulated through consultations and based on **local farming patterns** and **climate conditions**.
- The key focus areas include:
 - **Crop diversification**
 - **Water conservation**
 - **Soil health management**
 - **Self-sufficiency in agriculture**
 - Promotion of **natural and organic farming**
- **Committees will operate at the district, state, and national levels** to oversee implementation.
- **Central Nodal Officers (CNOs)** will be appointed to:
 - Visit districts
 - Monitor field progress
 - Conduct reviews
- **Agriculture universities** (both central and state-level) will serve as **knowledge partners** to provide expert guidance.

Performance Ranking and Monitoring

- The model is inspired by the **Aspirational Districts Programme (2018)**.
- It promotes:

- **Convergence** of schemes
- **Collaboration** between stakeholders
- **Competition** through performance-based rankings
- All 100 districts will be ranked **monthly** based on **117 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**.
- These KPIs will assess progress in:
 - Agriculture
 - Water resources
 - Financial inclusion
 - Infrastructure
 - Skill development
- **NITI Aayog** will provide:
 - **Technical guidance**
 - **Capacity-building support**
- A dedicated **digital portal/dashboard** will be created to regularly **track and display performance metrics** of each district.