

PMDDKY: Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana – Importance in Jaisalmer

D. Kumar, Saren K., R. S. Mehta and S. C. Meena

The **Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)** is a new government program started to make Indian agriculture more productive, modern, and profitable for farmers. It was **announced in the Union Budget 2025–26** by Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and **approved by the Union Cabinet on 16 July 2025**. The scheme will run for **six years (2025–26 to 2030–31)** with a **total budget of ₹1.44 lakh crore** (₹24,000 crore each year). PMDDKY will focus on **100 backward districts** where farming faces major problems like low yields, water shortage, and lack of modern tools. Around **1.7 crore small and marginal farmers** (with land less than 2 hectares) will benefit from this scheme.



Fig. 1: Field visit in a farmer's field

Key Idea of PMDDKY

PMDDKY brings together **36 existing agricultural schemes** from **11 ministries**—such as PM-KISAN (cash transfer), PMFBY (crop insurance), PMKSY (irrigation), and RKVY (development projects)—into one single program. This helps reduce confusion, improve coordination, and make sure farmers get all benefits from one window. It is inspired by the **Aspirational Districts Programme** of NITI Aayog, which improved health, education, and infrastructure in 112 poor districts. Similarly, PMDDKY aims to raise agricultural productivity, income, and sustainability in lagging districts.

Why PMDDKY Was Started

Indian agriculture faces many problems that limit its growth:

1. Low Crop Productivity:

In many districts (like Bundelkhand, Seemanchal, and tribal areas), crop yields are much lower than the national average due to poor soil, low irrigation, and old techniques.

Example: Rice yield in Bihar's Seemanchal area is only **1.8 tonnes/hectare** compared to **2.7 tonnes/hectare** nationally.

2. Dependence on Monsoons:

Over **52%** of farmland depends on rainfall. Droughts or floods cause major crop losses, like Bundelkhand's 2023 drought that destroyed 30% of crops.

3. Small Landholdings:

About **86%** of farmers own less than **2 hectares** of land and earn only around **₹10,000/month**, which is not enough for family needs.

4. Lack of Modern Resources:

Many farmers cannot afford quality seeds, bio-fertilizers, or modern machines.

5. Post-Harvest Losses:

Around **20%** of crops (like fruits and vegetables) spoil due to lack of storage, leading to losses worth **₹50,000 crore every year**.

6. Low Income and Market Problems:

Middlemen and weak markets reduce farmers' earnings, causing debt and poverty.

Main Objectives of PMDDKY

PMDDKY aims to:

- Increase crop yields by **20–30%** using modern inputs.

D. Kumar¹, Saren K.¹, R. S. Mehta¹ and S. C. Meena¹

¹Scientists, ICAR–Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

- Provide **irrigation** to reduce dependence on monsoons.
- Support **farm mechanization** with affordable tools.
- Develop **storage and cold chains** to reduce post-harvest losses to under 5%.
- Improve **market access and credit availability** to double farmer income by 2030.
- Promote **organic and sustainable farming**.
- Empower **women and youth** in agriculture and allied sectors like dairy and fisheries.
- Achieve **self-reliance** in food grains, pulses, and oilseeds.

Implementation and Monitoring

The scheme will be managed by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**, with three levels of oversight:

1. **National Steering Committee** – overall supervision.
2. **State-Level Nodal Committees** – coordination and execution.
3. **District Dhan Dhaanya Samitis** – headed by the **District Collector**, for local implementation.

Key Benefits of PMDDKY

PMDDKY offers a comprehensive set of benefits designed to transform the agricultural landscape:

1. **Increased Crop Yields:** Access to high-yielding seeds (e.g., hybrid wheat yielding 4 tonnes/hectare), bio-fertilizers, and mechanized tools like seed drills to boost production.
2. **Higher Income:** Diversifying into high-value crops like pulses (₹80-100/kg) and vegetables, and direct market access through apps to increase profits by 20-40%.
3. **Sustainable Farming:** Organic fertilizers, water-saving irrigation, and climate-resilient crops to maintain soil health and reduce environmental impact.
4. **Irrigation Systems:** Drip and sprinkler systems to ensure water availability, enabling year-round farming in dry regions.
5. **Storage Facilities:** Village and block-level warehouses and cold storage to prevent spoilage of 20% of perishables like fruits, vegetables, and dairy.

6. **Financial Support:** Subsidies (50-80% off inputs) and loans (short-term: ₹50,000–₹1 lakh; long-term: ₹1–10 lakh) through Kisan Credit Cards or NABARD.
7. **Market Access:** Digital platforms like **e-NAM** and new PMDDKY apps to connect farmers directly to buyers, reducing middlemen and boosting profits.
8. **Training and Skill Development:** Free workshops by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), agricultural universities, and private partners on modern farming, drone use, and allied activities like beekeeping.
9. **Women Empowerment:** Support for **10,000 women producer groups** with training, loans, and market linkages for activities like dairy or organic farming.
10. **Global Exposure:** Fully funded international training for **500 farmers** in countries like Israel (expertise in drip irrigation), Japan (precision farming), or the Netherlands (greenhouse technology).