

PM PRANAM: Pioneering Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Health in India

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Abstract: The article delves into PM PRANAM PM Program for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother Earth, a groundbreaking scheme introduced by the Indian government in the 2023-24 Union Budget. This initiative aims to revolutionize agricultural practices by promoting balanced chemical fertilizer usage and increasing organic and biofertilizer applications. Through detailed analysis, the article explores the schemes objectives, such as reducing chemical dependency in agriculture, alleviating government financial burdens through reduced fertilizer subsidies, and enhancing soil health. It also examines the implementation strategies, including infrastructure development, awareness programs, and technological adaptations for alternative fertilizer production. The piece underscores the importance of PM PRANAM in addressing the challenges of excessive chemical fertilizer use, its impact on soil health, and financial implications for the Indian government, positioning it as a vital step towards sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship.

Keywords: PM PRANAM, Sustainable Agriculture, Soil Health, Fertilizer Management, Environmental Stewardship

1. Introduction

PM PRANAM is the new scheme which is launched by the government of India to generate awareness among citizen of India about maintaining the soil health by using chemical fertilizers in a balanced way and also using alternative fertilizers.

PM PRANAM means PM Program for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of mother earth which was launched in union budget 2023-24.

Objectives of PM PRANAM

- Create awareness about the balanced use of fertilizers
- Reduce the use of chemicals in agriculture
- Create awareness about increasing the use of organic and biofertilizers.
- To reduce the financial burden on government which is given as subsidy to farmers by Government of India.

Characteristics of PM PRANAM

- No separate budget for it
- 50% of saved subsidy will be given back to the state
- The state or UTS had cfve to spend 70% on technological adaptation of alternate fertilizers and alternate fertilizer producing plants
- 30% will be used on the development of farmers, villages, self help groups and on those who are working to create awareness for reducing the use of chemicals etc.

How it will be calculated?

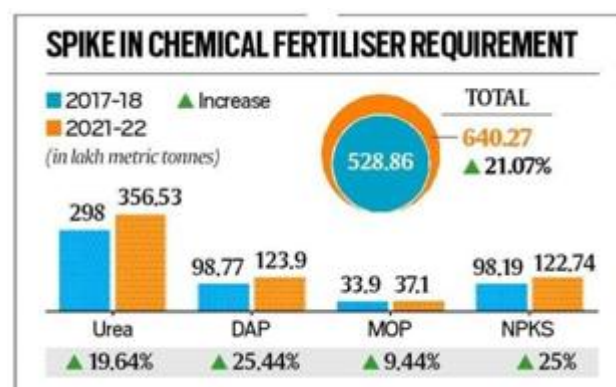
It will be calculated by comparing the IFMs (Integrated Fertilizers Management System) data available in fertilizer ministry of a state of that year with last three years data.

Why it comes?

- Increase in fertilizer's demand: As per the report given in the parliament by union minister of state for chemical and fertilizers Mr. Bhagwant Khuba last year. The use of four main chemical fertilizers in india i.e. Urea, DAP , MOP and NPKs has been increased by 21%. In the year 2017-18 it was 529 metric tons and it became 641 metric tons in year 2021-22.

- Financial burden of Government: In 2021-22 Government of India allotted 79530 crores for subsidy eventually the amount became more than 1.6 lakh crores.

In 2022-23 Government of India allotted 1.05 lakh crores for subsidy but it is estimated that it can go upto 2.25 lakh cr



Source: IFMs

- To maintain soil health: Reduced use of chemical fertilizers will also help in improvement of soil health like water holding capacity of soil, soil porosity etc.
- To reduce dependency on other countries for fertilizers: Since India is the second largest user of chemical fertilizers after china in world and first among SHARK countries. Government of India also imports fertilizer from other countries to fulfil its fertilizer needs.

How it will be implemented?

- 1) By improving infrastructure: In union budget Government of India is planning to make 10000 biofertilizer plants in next three years.
- 2) By creating national level network among distributors and consumers.
- 3) By increasing soil testing : farmers can get to know about the status of their soil's health.
- 4) By creating awareness: Government of India ordered KRIBHCO for creating awareness among people at village level in Utrakhand with VKSY(Vikshit Bharat Sankalp Yatra) rath

Volume 13 Issue 1, January 2024

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- DBT : Direct Benefit Transfer ton reduce leakage in system after 2016
- Neem Coated Urea : Government of India adviced all fertilizer companies to produce only neem coated urea so that it can help the farmers by improving their soil health.

2. Conclusion

PM PRANAM Scheme is a great initiative of Government of India to maintain soil fertility and using alternative fertilizer. In this time when people are practicing conventional farming with main objective of high yield so they are using the chemical fertilizers blindly without knowing about the requirement of their field which is causing various problems on our health and soil.

Due to the excess use of fertilizers Government of India is also facing various financial problems as they have to pay the subsidy amount to the fertilizer companies just after the farmers buy from the retailers.

In this situation Government of India is running programs like soil health card so that people can get to know about the requirement of their soil so they can provide nutrition to their field as per their requirement and along with that when the awareness programme will run on ground level under PM PRANAM Scheme . People will get to know that soil is also a living body and it is also necessary to maintain its health for future. Without using much capital this program can also reduce financial burden on Government of India.

It will also help state government as they will get 50% of the saved subsidy amount and use that for the development of villages. They will also adapt various technologies for alternative fertilizers by establishing plants for alternative fertilizers as per instructions given by this (PM PRANAM) programme.

References

- [1] Various government websites like IFMs (Integrated Fertilizer Management system)
- [2] Various educational institutes' websites like Drishti IAS, IAS Parliament.