

## ZERO BUDGET FARMING

Relevant for: Indian Economy | Topic: Major Crops, Cropping Patterns and various Agricultural Revolutions

Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP), a sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2020-21 is promoted for traditional indigenous practices including Zero Budget Farming. The scheme mainly emphasises on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and plant based preparations. Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification and residue analysis.

Until now, under BPKP, an area of 4.09 lakh ha. area has been covered and a total fund of Rs. 4980.99 lakh has been released in 8 States across the country, the details of which is given at **Annexure-I**.

Government of Uttar Pradesh has proposed 98670 ha. area in 35 districts for Natural Farming with budget of Rs. 19722 lakhs. This would benefit 51450 farmers. This also includes the Prayagraj district covering 1000.2 hac. area with 913 farmers.

Government of Rajasthan has been promoting Natural Farming since 2019-20 as a pilot project in Tonk, Sirohi and Bansawara district through State Budget. During financial year 2020-21, the scheme was executed in 15 districts (i.e. Ajmer, Bansawara, Baran, Barmer, Bhilwara, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jaisalmer, Jhalwar, Nagaur, Tonk, Sikar, Sirohi and Udaipur) of the State. Under the scheme since 2019-20, 7213 farmer were trained at gram panchayat level training programme on different components of Zero Budget Natural farming (ZBNF) & 2080 farmers were benefited through subsidy on input-unit in Bansawara district of Rajasthan. This scheme is not being implemented in Dungarpur district.

The Government of Himachal Pradesh has launched a scheme named 'Pratrik Kheti Khushal Kisan Yojana by adopting 'Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) (also called Zero Budget Natural Farming techniques). Upto 31 October, 2021 1,46,438 farmers of Himachal Pradesh are practicing in Zero Budget Natural Farming under the State Scheme Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan Yojana.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research through ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram initiated a study on "Evaluation and validation of Natural Farming Practices in different Agro-ecologies" covering all the pillars (Concoctions such as Beejamrit, Jeevamrit, Ghanjeevamrit; Intercropping; Mulching and Whapasa) of natural farming under All India Network Programme on Organic Farming from *kharif* 2020 at 20 locations covering 16 States.

Multi-location evaluation of 8 cropping systems namely Maize +cowpea (fodder) - wheat + chickpea (Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand); Cotton +green gram - *rabi* sorghum +chickpea (Tamil Nadu and Karnataka); Soybean + maize - wheat+mustard (Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh); Rice +*dhaincha* - maize+cowpea (fodder) (Jharkhand and Maharashtra); Turmeric + cowpea—green gram (Kerala and Meghalaya); Cassava +vegetable cowpea – greengram (Kerala); Cowpea+maize (fodder)—Fennel+cabbage (Gujarat, Rajasthan) and Soybean+maize for grain—vegetable pea+ green coriander (Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand)is being undertaken with the participation of 11 SAUs, 8 ICAR institutes and 1 special heritage university. The study is in progress.

The State –wise details of funds released under BPKP

Sl. No.

States

Area in Ha

Amount released (Rs in lakh)

1.

Andhra Pradesh

100000

750.00

2.

Chhattisgarh

85000

1352.52

3.

Kerala

84000

1336.60

4.

Himachal Pradesh

12000

286.42

5

Jharkhand

3400

	54.10
6.	
Odisha	
	24000
	381.89
7.	
Madhya Pradesh	
	99000
	787.64
8.	
Tamil Nadu	
	2000
	31.82
<b>Total</b>	
	<b>409400</b>
	<b>4980.99</b>

This information was given in a written reply by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in Lok Sabha today.

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## APS

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## **Annexure- I**

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**APS**

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