

PM Pranam Scheme

Mo Naushad

M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Agronomy United University, JhalwaPrayagraj

ARTICLE ID: 65

Introduction

In order to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers by incentivizing states, the Union government plans to introduce a new scheme – PM PRANAM, which stands for PM Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana.

The proposed scheme intends to reduce the subsidy burden on chemical fertilizers, which is expected to increase to Rs 2.25 lakh crore in 2022-2023, which is 39% higher than the previous year's figure of Rs 1.62 lakh crore.



PM Pranam scheme

The scheme will not have a separate budget and will be financed by the “savings of existing fertilizer subsidy” under schemes run by the Department of fertilizers.

Further, 50% subsidy savings will be passed on as a grant to the state that saves the money, sources said, and that 70% of the grant provided under the scheme can be used for asset creation related to technological adoption of alternate fertilizers and alternate fertilizer production units at village, block and district levels.

Place where PM Pranam Scheme was proposed

PM PRANAM Scheme was proposed during the National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign that took place on September 7, 2022

Need of PM PRANAM Scheme

The recent trends have seen a huge increase in the use of chemical fertilizers to increase the agriculture supply.

There are four important fertilizers: Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK. The requirement of these four fertilizers – Urea, DAP, MOP, and the NPK – increased by 21% *i.e.* from 528.86 lakh metric tonnes in 2017-18 to 640.27 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) in 2021-22. This data was given in the parliament in august 2022. Thus, the Centre intends to cut down on the intense usage of fertilizer and promote alternative fertilizers.

Note:

DAP: Diammonium Phosphate

MOP: Muriate of potash

NPK: Nitrogen Phosphorus, Potassium

Benefits for Farmers

PM Narendra Modi had urged the farmers to reduce their dependence on chemical fertilizers and encouraged them to use organic farming methods in his Independence Day speech on August 15. "Natural farming, chemical-free farming can give strength to the country's goal of becoming self-reliant," PM Modi had said.

PM Modi had reminded the farmers that natural farming is a means of prosperity as well respecting and serving our mother earth while addressing the Natural Farming Conclave in July this year. "When you do natural farming, you serve Mother Earth, protect the quality of the soil, and its productivity. When you do natural farming you are serving nature and the environment. When you join natural farming, you also get the privilege of serving Gaumata", he said.

This proves that the government has been working on a policy related to natural farming and now according to the reports it is all set to come out with the Pradhan Mantri-Promotion of Alternative Nutritious and Agriculture Management (PM-PRANAM) scheme soon. The aim of the PM-PRANAM scheme is to discourage the use of chemical fertilizers and promote sustainable agriculture practices.



According to the plan, states that used fewer chemical fertilizers in a given year than they did on average over the previous three years would receive incentives. The fertilizer subsidy savings that the states achieve by using less fertilizer would be distributed to them at a rate of 50%. It should be noted that in order to boost their yields, farmers have been heavily reliant on fertilizers like urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP), and muriate of potash (MOP).

Features of the Proposed Scheme:

1. The scheme will have no separate budget and will be financed through the “savings of existing fertilizer subsidy” under schemes run by the Department of Fertilizers.
2. 50% of subsidy savings will be passed on as a grant to the state that saves the money.
3. 70% of the grant provided under the scheme can be used for asset creation related to the technological adoption of alternate fertilizers and alternate fertilizer production units at the village, block and district levels.
4. The remaining 30% grant money can be used for rewarding and encouraging farmers, panchayats, farmer producer organizations and self-help groups that are involved in the reduction of fertilizer use and awareness generation.
5. The calculation of reducing chemical fertilizer use of urea in a year will be compared to the average consumption of urea during the last three years.
6. For this purpose, data available on a Fertilizer Ministry dashboard, IFMS (Integrated Fertilizers Management System) will be used.

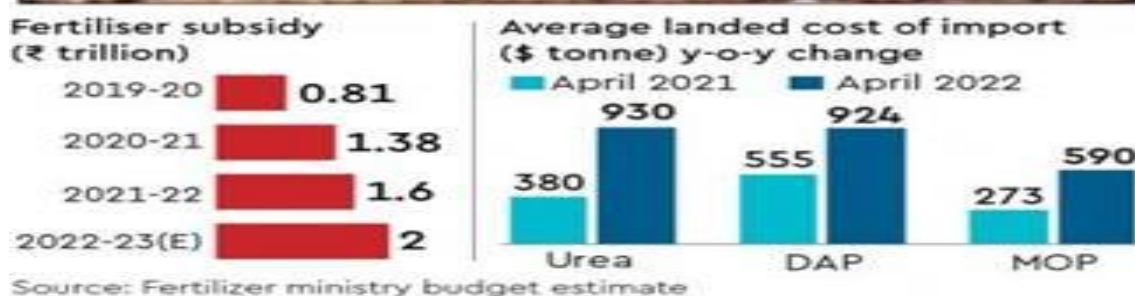
Current Status of the PM Pranam Scheme

The PM-PRANAM initiative was proposed by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, and top officials discussed its specifics with state government officials on September 7 as part of the National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign. On the suggested plan, the government has already started inter-ministerial discussions. Once the views of the concert department are incorporated, the draft of the PM PRANAM scheme will be finalized.

Working of the Scheme

1. The scheme will not have a separate budget and will be financed by the “savings of existing fertilizer subsidy” under schemes run by the Department of Fertilizers.
2. Further, 50% subsidy savings will be passed on as a grant to the state that saves the money.
3. 70% of the grant provided under the scheme can be used for asset creation related to technological adoption of alternate fertilizers and alternate fertilizer production units at village, block and district levels.
4. The remaining 30% grant money can be used for incentivizing farmers, panchayats, farmer producer organizations and self-help groups that are involved in the reduction of fertilizer use and awareness generation.
5. The government will compare a state’s increase or reduction in urea in a year, to its average consumption of urea during the last three years. Data available on a fertilizer Ministry dashboard, IFMS (Integrated fertilizers Management System), will be used for this purpose.

Fertilizer does in India?



1. The *Kharif* season (June-October) is critical for India’s food security, accounting for nearly half the year’s production of foodgrains, one-third of pulses and approximately two-thirds of oilseeds. A sizable amount of fertilizer is required for this season.

- The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare assesses the requirement of fertilizers each year before the start of the cropping season, and informs the Ministry of Chemical and fertilizers to ensure the supply.
- The amount of fertilizer required varies each month according to demand, which is based on the time of crop sowing, which also varies from region to region. For example, the demand for urea peaks during June-August period, but is relatively low in March and April, and the government uses these two months to prepare for an adequate amount of fertilizer for the *Kharif* season.
- The total requirement of four fertilizers — Urea, DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate), MOP (Murate of potash), NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium) — in the country increased by 21% to 640.27 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) in 2021-22 from 528.86 lakh metric tonnes in 2017-18.
- The maximum increase — 25.44% has been recorded in the requirement of DAP. It went up from 98.77 LMT in 2017-18 to 123.9 LMT in 2021-22.
- Urea, the most used chemical fertilizer in the country, recorded an increase of 19.64 per cent — from 298 LMT in 2017-18 to 356.53 in 2021-22 — in the last five years

