

Department of Agriculture, District Bilaspur H.P

Welfare Schemes:

1. Quality Seed Multiplication and Distribution:

Department owns 2 Seed Multiplication Farms, where foundation seeds of Kharif and Rabi crops are produced.

2. Manure and Fertilizers:

(a) Distribution of Fertilizers: The State Govt. has allowed cost subsidy on complex fertilizers NPK 12:32:16, NPK 10:26:26 and NPK 15:15:15 @ Rs.1000/-per MT. Apart from this cost subsidy @25% is also being provided on 100% water soluble complex fertilizers to the farmers (limited to Rs. 2500 per farmer). In order to ensure adequate supply of fertilizers, the Govt. has entrusted this responsibility to HIMFED/Cooperative Societies. The farmers are educated about balanced use of fertilizers and as per soil testing nutrient basis.

(b) Soil Testing Centres: Soil testing has great importance for raising agriculture production. The department is providing free soil testing facilities to the farmers. Department has 1 Soil Testing Laboratory. About 8750 samples are analysed annually. Besides this Soil Health Cards are being provided to the farmers. Soil testing service has also being included under H.P. Govt. Public Service Act, 2011 in which the soil health cards are being made available to the farmers through online service within prescribed time limit.

3. Quality Control: Under this scheme, implementation of various acts on seeds, fertilizers and pesticides is ensured. Quality control functionaries have been notified.

4. H.P. Crop Diversification Project (JICA ODA Loan Project):

Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Project being supported by JICA through ODA loan. The study on diversified agriculture for enhanced farm income in Himachal Pradesh was got conducted from Japan International Cooperative agency (JICA) w.e.f. February, 2007 to December, 2008.

Objectives of the Project:

1. Increase the area and production of vegetables through crop diversification. 2. To raise income of small and marginal farmers. 3. To create infrastructures for irrigation, farm access roads, marketing, post harvest etc. 4. To promote organic farming in a big way. 5. To organize farmers into groups to take over operation and maintenance of irrigation systems. 6. Training and capacity building of Department of Agriculture field extension staff. 7. The project is being implemented through Himachal Pradesh Agriculture Development Society.

5. Soil and Water Conservation:

Due to topographical factors, the soil is subject to splash, sheet and Gully erosion resulting into degradation of the soil. Besides this, there is biotic pressure on the lands to the curb this menace particularly on the agricultural lands. The Department of Agriculture, H.P. is executing two Soil and Water Conservation schemes under State Sector Scheme. The schemes are water conservation and development.

6. Project under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (R.I.D.F):

(a) Special Project on Diversification of Agriculture through Micro Irrigation and Other Related Infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh: Although water is a renewable resource, its availability in appropriate quality and quantity is under severe stress due to increasing demand from various sectors. Agriculture is the largest user of water, which consumes more than 80% of the country's exploitable water resources. It has been recognised that use of modern irrigation methods like drip and sprinkler irrigation is the only alternative for efficient use of surface as well as ground water resources. Hence, this project on diversification through micro irrigation and other related infrastructure in HP aims at increasing the area under efficient methods of irrigation viz., drip and sprinkler irrigation. The project components include sprinkler system, drip system, farm tank, shallow well, shallow tube well, deep tube well, small and medium lifts and pumping machinery. For sprinkler and drip systems, the farmers shall be provided 80% subsidy and 20% would be beneficiary's contribution. Besides this the farmers shall also be provided 50% assistance for creation of farm tank, shallow well, shallow tube well, deep tube well, small and medium lifts and pumping machinery.

(b) Dr. Y. S. Parmar Kisan Swarozgar Yojna: In order to achieve faster and more inclusive growth in Agriculture sector Government of Himachal Pradesh has started "Dr. Y. S. Parmar Kisan Swarozgar Yojna" (poly house and micro irrigation inside polyhouse). Project components include creation of need based infrastructure and are expected to fulfill objectives of high productivity, quality, safeguard against adverse weather, efficient input use etc. Project

components include construction of location specific models of poly houses with micro irrigation facility. For this, 85% project assistance shall be provided to the farmers. Also for creation for water sources individually and collectively by a group of farmers (Low/medium lift, pumping machinery), 50% subsidy shall be provided.

7. SUPPORT TO STATE EXTENSION PROGRAMMES FOR EXTENSION REFORMS (ATMA) (90:10) :

This programme is a major initiative towards revitalizing agricultural extension to make the extension system decentralized and demand driven. The scheme has been conceptualized on the basis of the policy framework for agricultural extension and experiences with the innovations in the technology dissemination component of the National Technology Project .

8. KISAN CALL CENTRE:

Under this, farmers can get any information on agriculture by dialing toll free number 1800-180-1551 or 1551. The service is available from 6.00 AM to 10.00 PM on all days. This is 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

9. CROP INSURANCE SCHEMES:

(A) RASHTRIYA KRISHI BIMA YOJNA (RKBY): The State Govt. has introduced this scheme from Rabi, 1999-2000 season. Crops covered are Wheat, Maize, Paddy and tomato crop in Sadar block. 50% subsidy on premium is being provided to small and marginal farmers. The scheme is compulsory for loanee farmers and optional for non-loanee farmers. The scheme provides comprehensive risks insurance against yield losses viz. drought, hailstorm, floods and pests disease etc. The Agriculture Insurance Co. of India (AICI) is implementing the scheme. The farmers of the State can get benefit out of this programme. State and Government of India share the losses equally. From Rabi, 2007-08, the subsidy on premium has been raised from 10% to 50% to small & marginal farmers.

Objectives: 1. To provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases. 2. To encourage the farmers to adopt progressive farming practices, high value in-puts and higher technology in Agriculture. 3. To help stabilise farm incomes, particularly in disaster years. b) Farmers to be covered: The Scheme covers following groups of farmers: On a compulsory basis: All farmers growing notified crops and availing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) loans from Financial Institutions i.e. Loanee Farmers. On a voluntary basis: All other farmers growing notified crops (i.e., Non-Loanee farmers) who opt for the Scheme. c) Risks Covered: Comprehensive risk insurance will be provided to cover yield losses due to non-preventable risks, viz.: 1. Natural Fire and Lightning 2. Storm, Hailstorm, Cyclone, Typhoon, Tempest, Hurricane, Tornado etc. 3. Flood, Inundation and Landslide 4. Drought, Dry spells 5. Pests/Diseases etc. d) Seasonality Discipline: The broad cut-off dates for receipt of proposals in respect of Non-loanee farmers will be as under : Kharif season : 31st July Rabi season : 31st December However, seasonality discipline may be modified, if and where necessary in consultation with State / UT and the Govt. of India.

10. BIOGAS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES (100%):

This is 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which subsidy @ Rs.7000 per biogas plant of one cubic meter and Rs.11,000/- per biogas plant of two & above cubic meter capacity is being provided.

11. RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJNA (RKVY) (100% CSS):

Concerned by the slow growth in Agriculture and allied sectors, the Government of India has launched a special Additional Central Assistance Scheme Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY). The RKVY aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the XI Plan period, by ensuring a holistic development of Agriculture and allied sectors. The following schemes are being implemented in the district during 2014-15 to achieve envisaged annual growth rate.

1. Crop Diversification
2. Promotion of Organic Framing
3. Mukhayamantri Adarsh Krishi Gaon Yojna.
 1. Crop Diversification: Under this scheme vegetable seeds have been provided to the farmers on rationalized subsidy for increasing the area under vegetable cultivation in this district.
 2. Promotion of Organic Farming: Construction/installation of vermicompost pit/vermibed on 50% subsidy to the farmers. Objectives: To promote the policy relating to adoption of Organic Farming " Promotion of environment friendly agriculture " Recycling & use of farm waste biomass, thereby reducing the cost of production " To improve the physical and biological properties of soils, shelf life and flavour of farm produce " To reduce the use of inorganic fertilizers " To increase export of farm produce " Improvement of soil health.

3. Mukhayamantri Adarsh Krishi Gaon Yojna. Under this scheme, Rs. 10.00 lac will be provided as gap filling funds for creation & upgradation of agriculture infrastructure in one panchayat of each constituency to be developed as a Model panchayat.

12. NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY MISSION (NFSM):

The National Food Security Mission is a centrally sponsored scheme has been launched in 2007. Bilaspur has been included under this Mission to increase the production and productivity of Wheat. The Mission provides assistance for laying cluster demonstrations, distribution of Certified Seed, Micro-Nutrients, Plant and soil protection material, liming of acidic soils, improved implements and machinery, introduction of IPM, INM and capacity building of the farmers. Besides this assistance would be available for water harvesting, Micro irrigation & pumping sets.

Objectives of this scheme: a. Increasing production of rice and pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner in a identified district of the State. b. Restoring soil fertility and productivity at the individual farm level. c. Creation of employment opportunities. d. Enhancing farm level economy i.e. farm profits to restore the confidence among the farmers.

13. NATIONAL MISSION ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (NMSA):

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) has been formulated for enhancing agricultural productivity especially in rainfed areas focusing on integrated farming, water use efficiency, soil health management and synergizing resource conservation. NMSA will cater to key dimensions of 'Water use efficiency', 'Nutrient Management' and 'Livelihood diversification' through adoption of sustainable development pathway by progressively shifting to environmental friendly technologies, adoption of energy efficient equipments, conservation of natural resources, integrated farming, etc. Besides, NMSA aims at promoting location specific improved agronomic practices through soil health management, enhanced water use efficiency, judicious use of chemicals, crop diversification, progressive adoption of crop-livestock farming systems and integrated approaches like crop-sericulture, agro-forestry, fish farming, etc.

14. SCSP: -Agriculture inputs i.e. seed, implements and PP material are being provided on rationalized subsidy to the schedule caste farmers of this district.

15. TASP: -Agriculture inputs i.e. seed, implements and PP material are being provided on rationalized subsidy to the scheduled tribe farmers residing in non tribal areas of this district.

16. BASP: -There are 15 backward Panchyat in development block Jhandutta of this district. Agriculture inputs i.e. seed, implements and PP material are being provided on rationalized subsidy to the farmers residing in backward areas of this district.