

PRADHANMANTRI KRISHI SICHAYEE YOJANA

Context

- Irregularities have been seen in Centre's drip irrigation scheme in Jharkhand.

About the scheme



- The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana was launched to expand the cultivated area with assured irrigation and reduce the wastage of water in the country.



- The scheme focuses on creating sources-protective irrigation by harnessing rainwater at a micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' and 'Jal Sinchan'.



- Micro irrigation is also incentivised through subsidies to ensure 'Per Drop More Crop'.

Need for the policy

- Water or irrigation is the most essential part of agriculture as it determines crop yield and farmer livelihood.
- Prior to the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, 54% of the agricultural land in India was unirrigated and farmers depended on rainwater (which is sporadic) for irrigation.
- Keeping this in mind, Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana to solve irrigation problems of farmers in the country.

Challenges to the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- A report of the parliamentary standing committee on rural development has revealed that only 10% of the projects taken up under the watershed development component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) have been completed.

- The committee had found that none of the projects under the scheme had been completed and had come down strongly on the Department of Land Resources (DLR), which is responsible for the implementation.



- Recently, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, also pointed out that despite spending Rs 13,000 crore, none of the five key irrigation projects it evaluated were 'near completion'.

- According to the CAG, in these five projects, 14.53 lakh hectare irrigation potential has been created but a mere 5.36 lakh hectare (37%) irrigation potential is being utilised. Eleven other projects with an estimated irrigation potential of 10.48 lakh hectare are yet to commence.

Policy Details

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana has been formed by amalgamating ongoing schemes such as the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and On-farm Water Management (OFWM).

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana is supervised and monitored by an Inter-ministerial National Steering Committee (NSC), which was constituted under the Prime Minister and some Union Ministers.

- A National Executive Committee (NEC) was constituted under the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog to oversee programme implementation, resource allocation, inter-ministerial coordination, monitoring & performance assessment, administrative issues, etc.

Objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- Achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level (preparation of district level and, if required, sub district level water use plans).
- Enhance physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (**Har Khet ko Pani**)
- Integrate water source, distribution and its efficient use to make the best use of water through appropriate technologies and practices
- Optimise farm water use (and reduce wastage) and increase availability
- Enhance recharging of aquifers and introduce sustainable water-conservation practices
- Explore the feasibility of reusing treated municipal wastewater for peri-urban agriculture
- Attract more private investments in irrigation



Related schemes



Command Area Development & Water Management Programme (CAD&WM) : Surface



Surface Minor Irrigation



Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) Programme



Har Khet Ko Pani



Per Drop More Crop



Watershed Development

Conclusion

- According to the Economic Survey 2019-20, micro-irrigation is a proven technology that has gained popularity among farmers in India. A stronger push and appropriate fund allocation towards the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana will help the government realise a target coverage of 10 million hectares in the next five years.