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Seminar II

Krishi Bhagya Scheme: An Overview

Synopsis

A majority of the Indian population lives in villages and above 50 per cent of them rely directly or indirectly on agriculture. One of the greatest threats to farming is water scarcity. The annual rainfall of the country varies from 400 mm to 1200 mm, varying both in place and time. In the low to medium rainfall regions, the occurrence of high-intensity rainfall is very meager. Hence the rainwater management is necessary to increase water efficiency.

The Krishi Bhagya Scheme was implemented on 14th Feb. 2014 in five prime dryland zones covering 23 districts. The Government of Karnataka launched Krishi Bhagya Scheme exclusively for the dry-land farmers who rely on the annual rainfall for their farming. Since, a majority of the Karnataka's agricultural land over 70.00 per cent is under rainfed conditions, farming activities on the dry lands become challenging during erratic rainfall period. To ensure irrigation for sustainable agriculture, Krishi Bhagya Scheme was started. This scheme incorporates effective rainwater conservation measures to improve productivity.

With this back drop, the present seminar has been conceptualized with the following objectives:

1. To know the concept of Krishi Bhagya Scheme
2. To know the components of Krishi Bhagya Scheme
3. To review the related research studies

Krishi Bhagya scheme

Under the Krishi Bhagya Scheme, more emphasis is given to help farmers to take up water conservation measures such as constructing farm ponds in their agricultural land and saving every drop of rainwater for use during the dry spells to protect standing crops. The provisions availed under this Krishi Bhagya Scheme are that construction of climate-resilient technology for rainfed agriculture like farm ponds, sprinklers/drippers and motor pump is offered at a subsided rate which has assisted the farmers in the harvesting of the excess rainwater on a farmer's field.

The primary purpose of the strategy is that harvested water in the farm ponds is being applied for providing life-saving protective irrigation for rain-fed crops through drip and sprinkler irrigation system, the polythene sheets are provided to prevent the percolation losses and shade nets for reducing evaporationlosses of the water from the farm ponds. The various components of the Krishi Bhagya Scheme play a vital role in stabilizing crop production during the dry spells.

Components of Krishi Bhagya Scheme

Farm pond, polythene sheet, shade nets, diesel pumpset, sprinkler and drip irrigation

Expenditure pattern of Krishi Bhagya Scheme

Data illustrates that during 2014-15, 484.17 crores were released as subsidies to farmers under the Krishi Bhagya Scheme, and in 2015-16 nearly 347.56 crores were spent under the program. Whereas during the year 2016-17, 151.61 crores and in 2018-19 till the date 169.23 crores has been spent on the Krishi Bhagya Scheme in Karnataka (Karnataka State Budget, 2018-19).

Benefits of Krishi Bhagya scheme

This scheme helps in increasing farm productivity, infusion of new technology and equipment, sustainable agricultural practices, better water management and irrigation facilities. This scheme also helps to grow high value crops in the poly houses. Water harvested in the pond helps the farmers to protect the crops when there is scarcity of rains.

Major constraints in implementation of the KBS

One of the major problem was the issue with material suppliers and service providers, lengthy procedure followed in availing benefits under the scheme, poor co-operation of officials with the beneficiaries was another constraint, delay in providing inputs, delay in transfer of benefits, lastly the quality of input supplied was found to be of poor quality.

Research study

Timmesha *et al*. (2020) revealed that after implementation of KBY the cropping intensity was increased from 103.33 to 121.66 per cent. There was a substantial increase in area under irrigation farming after the implementation of Krishi Bhagya Yojana in the study area.

Gondali *et al*. (2022) reported that in Kalaburagi and Bellary districts of North-Eastern Karnataka region among various components of Krishi Bhagya scheme, only 1.11 per cent of the farmers had farm pondbefore the implementation of Krishi Bhagya scheme, while cent per cent of them had farm pond after Krishi Bhagya scheme. Among Micro irrigation, it was practiced by 57.22 per cent and 13.33 per cent after and before Krishi Bhagya scheme. In case of protective cultivation, 9.44% and 1.67% of the respondents possessed shade net and poly house after Krishi Bhagya scheme.

Conclusion

The Government of Karnataka provided water harvesting structure (farm ponds) to dryland farmers under Krishi Bhagya Scheme with main focuses on securing farmers income by promoting on-farm rain water conservation practices and efficient use of water with higher productivity through modern agricultural technologies. Consequently, it helps to improve their rain water use efficiency, crop productivity and farm income especially in dryland areas. Apart from these, farmers can integrate different farming system with agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and dairy with view of enhancing on-farm and off-farm income in dryland areas.

References

GONDALI, H., CHANDARGI, D.M., GOUDAPPA, S.B., SHIVANAND, K., LOKESH, G.B. AND KOPPALKAR, B.G., 2022, Performance assessment of Krishi Bhagya scheme in North Eastern Karnataka region. *J. Pharm. Innov*., **11**(4): 104-107.

THIMMESHA, M., JAGRATI B., DESHMANYA AND SURESH, K., 2020, Impact of Krishi Bhagya Yojana on Cropping Pattern and Irrigation Practices of farmers in Kalyana Karnataka Region. *Int. J. Curr. Microbiol.,* **9**(7): 2319-7706.