Crop Residue Management (CRM) Scheme

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Polity and Governance*

Why in News?

Recently, Union Agriculture Minister and Environment Minister chaired a high-level meeting on stubble management. A provision has been made for 2026-27 under the CRM scheme.

- **Aim –** To address stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and NCT Delhi.
- To provide permanent solutions for stubble management, reduce air pollution, protect soil fertility, and increase farmers' income.
- **Type –** *Centrally Sponsored Scheme, not fully funded*
- **Centre-State Sharing –** Funds are shared 60:40 between the Centre and Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, while NCT Delhi receives 100% Central funding.
- **Launched in –** 2018**,** implemented under *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)*
- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- **Implementing Agency –** State Agriculture Departments under the supervision of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Subsidies for farmers	
Crop residue management machines.	50% subsidy
Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs).	80% subsidy
Paddy straw supply chain projects.	65% subsidy

Key Features

- **Supply Chain –** Paddy straw is collected, baled, and linked to industries such as *biomass power plants, thermal power plants (co-firing), bio-CNG units, and ethanol plants.*

- This converts stubble from waste into a resource, creating a permanent market and reducing burning.
- **Awareness and Training –** Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns, technology demonstrations, and capacity-building programmes train farmers in Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), bio-decomposers, and CRM machinery to drive sustainable residue management

  DSR – Sowing paddy seeds directly into the main field, eliminating labour-intensive nursery raising and manual transplantation into fields.

- **Monitoring –** Real-time monitoring of stubble burning incidents, geotagging of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), and deployment of a Stubble Protection Force in NCR districts ensure strict enforcement and accountability.
- **In-situ (on-site) management –** Promote retention, incorporation, mulching, bio-decomposer use.
- **Ex-situ (off-site) management** – Strengthen baling, transport, industrial use in biomass power, bio-CNG, ethanol, pellet units.
- **Coverage –** Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, NCT Delhi, ICAR institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK**)**, State Agricultural Universities (SAU).

Target 2026-2027
• **Machines –** Distribute 46,000 crop residue management machines to farmers. • **CHCs –** Establish 910 Custom Hiring Centres for rental access. • **Supply Chains –** Develop 141 projects linking farmers with straw-using industries.

References

1. PIB | CRM
2. Farmech | Operational Guidelines

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