Year End Review 2018 - Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare

Major highlights of the schemes, initiatives and activities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare during the year 2018

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Production Scenario

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- **Overall** - The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) fixes target for the production of foodgrains in the country annually.
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- It has been fixed at 290.25 million tonnes for the year 2018-19.
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- The country made a record foodgrains production of an estimated 284.83 million tonnes (4th Advance Estimates) for 2017-18.
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- As per India Meteorological Department (IMD), the rainfall in the country was 'normal' during South-West monsoon season.
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- **Rabi** - The total Rabi foodgrain production is around 140 million tonnes, higher by around 7.3 million tonnes than during 2016-17.
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- It is also higher by around 13.5 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2012-13 to 2016-17) average production of foodgrain.
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- Total Rabi Rice and Wheat Productions have increased, compared to 2016-17 production as well as the last five years' average.
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- Rabi Nutri/Coarse Cereals, Rabi Pulses, Rabi Oilseeds also registered growth in production during 2017-18, with only marginal growth for oilseeds.
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- **Kharif** - The production of foodgrains during Kharif 2018 has been estimated at 141.59 million tonnes, higher by 0.86 million tonnes.
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- Further, it is 11.94 million tonnes more than the average production of five

years (2012-13 to 2016-17).
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- Total production of Kharif rice was higher than the last year’s production and over the last five years' average.
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- The total production of Nutri/coarse cereals has decreased as compared to 2017-18 but production of Maize is expected to be higher.
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- The total production of Kharif pulses was lower by 0.12 million tonnes than the last year’s production, but was more than the five years' average.
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- Kharif oilseeds and Sugarcane recorded an increase in total production than last year and the five years' average.
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Doubling of Farmers’ Income

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- The Government has set a target of doubling farmers’ income by the year 2022.
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- An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constructed to examine the issues in this regard and recommend a strategy.
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- The committee has identified seven sources of income growth which are:
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1. improvement in crop productivity
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2. improvement in livestock productivity
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3. resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production
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4. increase in the cropping intensity
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5. diversification towards high value crops
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6. improvement in real prices received by farmers
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7. shift from farm to non-farm occupations
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- The committee is also looking into the investments in and for agriculture including increasing public investments for agriculture-rural roads, rural electricity, irrigation, etc.
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- It is also looking into the need for policy support to enable investments by corporate sector in agriculture.
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- Government is reorienting the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness, beyond the focus on production targets.
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- The various initiatives at this end include the following:
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i. market reforms through State Governments by amending the agriculture marketing regime
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ii. promulgation of Model Contract Farming Act to encourage contract farming through the State Governments
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iii. 22,000 Gramin Haats are to be upgraded to work as centres of aggregation and for direct purchase of agricultural commodities from the farmers
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iv. launch of eNAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform
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v. distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers to optimise the use of fertilizers
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vi. "Per drop more crop" initiative to encourage drip/sprinkler irrigation for optimal utilization of water
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vii. "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" to promote organic farming; North-East is being developed as organic hub
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viii. launch of revised farmer friendly "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)"; covers various types of risks from pre-sowing to post harvest, provision for nominal premium
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ix. "Har Medh Par Ped" to promote agro forestry for supplementing farm income; increase risk management and climate resilient agriculture
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x. amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927 to exclude bamboo from the definition of 'trees'; as a corollary, the restructured National Bamboo Mission was launched
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xi. PM-Asha scheme to ensure MSP to farmers for oilseeds, pulses and copra
\n
xii. government has approved the increase in MSPs for all Kharif & Rabi crops for 2018-19 season
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xiii. Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) as an additional source of income of farmers
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xiv. Rashtriya Gokul Mission to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines, to make milk production more remunerative
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xv. National Livestock Mission to increase productivity and genetic improvement of livestock
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xvi. a Blue Revolution with multi dimensional activities mainly focusing on fisheries production, both inland and marine, is being implemented
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xvii. a revised strategy document for 2018-2030 for the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) [0ne of the 8 Missions in PM's National Action Plan on Climate Change]
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Key Schemes, Initiatives and Activities

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Higher Production through Productivity Gains

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National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

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- NFSM programme is being implemented across the country for increasing the production and productivity of foodgrain crops (rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals & nutri-cereals)
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- It is done through -
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i. area expansion and productivity enhancement
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ii. restoring soil fertility and productivity at the individual farm level
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iii. enhancing farm level economy to restore confidence amongst the farmers
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- As per the target, NFSM has achieved the bumper production of rice, wheat, pulses and nutri-cum-coarse cereals, during 2017-18.
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- The total foodgrains production achieved during 2017-18 is around 284 million tonnes - 3.5% increase against the last year.
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- Various initiatives were taken for increasing production and productivity of Pulses, Nutri-Cereals, etc. including -
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i. Breeder Seed production of pulses and nutri-cereals
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ii. Creation of seed hubs
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iii. Certified seed production
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iv. Creating buffer stock to control price fluctuation
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Krishi Unnati Mela, 2018

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- A National level 3rd Krishi Unnati Mela was organized by DAC&FW.
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- The objective was to create widespread awareness about the latest agricultural technological developments and receive feedback from the agricultural community.
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- Ways to enhance farmer’s income through theme pavilions like micro

irrigation, neem-coated urea, effectiveness of crop insurance scheme, etc were showcased in the mela.
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Mahila Kisan Diwas

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- Mahila Kisan Diwas was organised on October 14-15, 2018 with participation of various stakeholders.
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- It included Women farmers, NGOs, Women Entrepreneurs, Academia, Researchers/Scientists, Farmer Organisations, Banking Sector Representatives, Industry, etc.
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- The focus was to learn and address issues related to women farmers in agriculture and allied sectors, access to institutional credit and micro-financing, etc.
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Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

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- Additional areas were covered under the mission for identified horticulture crops and organic farming.
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- Besides, Integrated Pests/Nutrient Management, Horticulture Mechanization, Beekeeping initiatives, Market and Management Infrastructures facilitation, and training of farmers were taken up.
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Information Technology

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- Number of farmers registered on M-kisan portal of DAC&FW for receiving agro-advisories has increased.
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- Downloads of Kisan Suvidha app has also increased; 4 new services were

added to the app, raising the services available to 10.
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RKVY-RAFTAAR

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- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) is aimed at strengthening infrastructure in agriculture and allied areas.
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- A new component under the revamped scheme RKVY-RAFTAAR (Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation) has been launched in 2018-19.
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- This is to promote agri-entrepreneurship and agribusiness by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem (RKVY — RAFTAR Agribusiness Incubators (RABIs)).
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Reduction in cost of cultivation

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Agricultural Mechanization-Crop Residue Management Scheme

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- A new Central Sector Scheme on ‘Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue' has been introduced.
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- This is for the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi for the period from 2018-19 to 2019-20.
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- The Scheme's components (100% Central Share) include -
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i. financial assistance to groups and organisations for establishing Farm

Machinery Banks for Custom Hiring of in-situ crop residue management machinery
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ii. financial assistance to individual farmers for Procurement of Agriculture Machinery and Equipment for in-situ crop residue management
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iii. financial assistance to institutions for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities for awareness on in-situ crop residue management
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Soil Health Management

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- Soil Health Management (SHM) is one of the components under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).
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- SHM aims at
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i. promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers
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ii. strengthening of soil and fertilizer testing facilities to provide soil test-based recommendations to farmers for improving soil fertility
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iii. ensuring quality control requirements of fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and organic fertilizers under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985
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iv. upgradation of skill and knowledge of soil testing laboratory staff, extension staff and farmers through training and demonstrations
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v. promoting organic farming practices, etc
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- Funds are released to States for setting up Static, Mobile and Village Soil Testing Laboratories and Fertilizer Quality Control Labs.
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Soil Health Card Scheme

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- Soil Health Card Scheme is under implementation since 2015 to provide Soil Health Card to all farmers in the country.
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- It provides information to farmers on soil nutrient status of their soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrient to be applied.
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- Soil Health card will be issued every 2 years for all land holdings in the country.
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Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

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- PKVY, to promote organic farming, is the first comprehensive scheme launched as a Centrally Sponsored Programme (CSP) from 2015-17, which now has been revised for next 3 years.
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- Funds are given as incentives to farmers for organic conversion, organic inputs, on-farm inputs, production infrastructure, etc.
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- The scheme is implemented with -
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1. 90:10 (GoI: State Govt.) funding pattern in 8 NE states and 3 hilly states of J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
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2. 100% central funding in Union Territory
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3. 60:40 funding pattern in remaining states of the country
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Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)

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- MOVCDNER (2015-16 to 2017-18) is a Central Sector Scheme that seeks to capitalise on the organic farming potential of North-East India.
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- It covers the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
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- The scheme aims at development of certified organic production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers.
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- It supports the development of entire value chain, covering Value Chain Production, Processing, Marketing and Support Agencies.
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Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) –Per Drop More Crop

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- Per Drop More Crop component of PMKSY is operational from 2015-16, and mainly focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through precision/micro irrigation.
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- It promotes
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i. precision irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System)
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ii. better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources
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iii. micro level water storage or water conservation/management activities as Other Interventions(OI) to supplement source creation
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Micro Irrigation Fund

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- A dedicated fund in NABARD titled “Micro Irrigation Fund” (MIF) with initial

corpus of Rs.5000 crores was announced in Union Budget 2017-18.
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- The main objective is to facilitate the States in mobilizing the resources for expanding coverage of Micro Irrigation by taking up special and innovative projects.
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Rainfed Area Development (RAD) Programme

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- RAD programme under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS).
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- It aims at enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability.
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- Crops/cropping system is integrated with activities like horticulture, livestock, fishery, agro-forestry, apiculture etc.
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Source: PIB

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