

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN): A Golden Initiative by Indian Government

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ABSTRACT: India has 1.38 billion population and more than half of the populace are engaged in agriculture for their employment. To meet financial requirement of farmers to procure inputs for better crop health and productivity, Indian Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme in 2018. This review aims to study the implementation goals and benefits provided to the farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. All marginal and small landowners involved in agriculture and farm operations benefited from the scheme, as they are supported with Rs. 6000 per year to cover their agricultural needs. Interestingly, there is approximately 28.73% hike in the number of farmers benefitted under this scheme from 2018 to 2021-2022, and an amount of about Rs. 22,000 crores have been successfully transferred to the farmers' bank account during Covid-19 lockdown. In addition, Rs 75,000 crores were distributed directly till August, 2020 without any commission to middlemen. The scheme proved to be a boon to the farmers and it should continue with the same pace.

Keywords: PM-KISAN, Beneficiaries, Mobile app, Marginal farmers.

INTRODUCTION

India is considered as world agricultural powerhouse and play a major role in Indian economy. Further, it is the leading manufacturer of pulses, milk, spices, as well as the largest area under rice, wheat and cotton (Ahmad and Haneef, 2019; Gupta and Nagar, 2017). About 58% of Indians depends on agriculture for their livelihood and the Indian population continues to increase exponentially (Agarwal and Sinha, 2017; India online 2021). In Fiscal year 20, agricultural & allied sectors accounted for 17.8% of India's gross value added (GVA) at current prices (IBEF 2021). It would not be inaccurate to state that 'Indian farmers' are the backbone of the economy and the beloved children of Mother India. However, this industry is still underdeveloped and plagued by numerous issues, resulting in low production and poor economics for farmers. The majority of farmers are in dire straits. Around 80% of farmers in India are marginal (less than 1 hectare) or small (1-2 hectare) farmers who are struggling to overcome the crises in their day-to-day life. In view of this the government is working to reinforce the country's backbone through innovative and strong policies (PM India 2021). The Indian government implemented a central sector scheme called "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)" to help agricultural families to meet their agriculture related needs. The scheme was effective from 1st December, 2018, while it was officially

launched on the 24th February, 2019 (Ahmad and Haneef, 2019; Vikaspedia, 2021).

The scheme provides 100% funding from the Indian central government and seeking to provide benefit to all small and marginal landholding farmer and their families with up to 2 hectares' cultivable land to complement their monetary requirements intended for acquiring several inputs associated to cultivation and allied activities as well as domestic needs by the means of payment of Rs. 6000 per year, subjected to certain exclusions (Ahmad and Haneef, 2019).

Small and marginal farmers from the urban and rural area are eligible to acquire benefits of the scheme. PM-KISAN not only help farmers during the harvest season to meet emergent needs but also pave the way for respectful living. Under the Scheme, Rs. 6000 (in 3 equal instalments), wages support will be directly transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers. The expected number of small and marginal farmers benefitted from this is around 12 crores. This programme will entail an annual expenditure of 75000 crores rupees (Ahmad and Haneef, 2019). In this study, we compiled the data about budgetary allocation of PM-KISAN, its beneficiaries detail, user friendly mobile apps and its impact on farmer's condition.

Budget allocation for PM-KISAN: The budget released by the government of India for the PM-KISAN scheme was 1241.13 crore in 2018-19 which has been increased in following years to cover small and marginal farmers (Fig. 1).

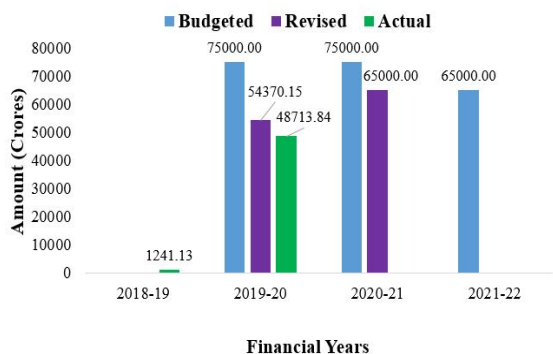


Fig. 1. Budget allocation by the Government of India for PM-KISAN scheme (in crores) (Pocket Book, 2020).

Payment and Beneficiaries Detail (2018-19 to 2021-22): The percentage of beneficiaries received payment

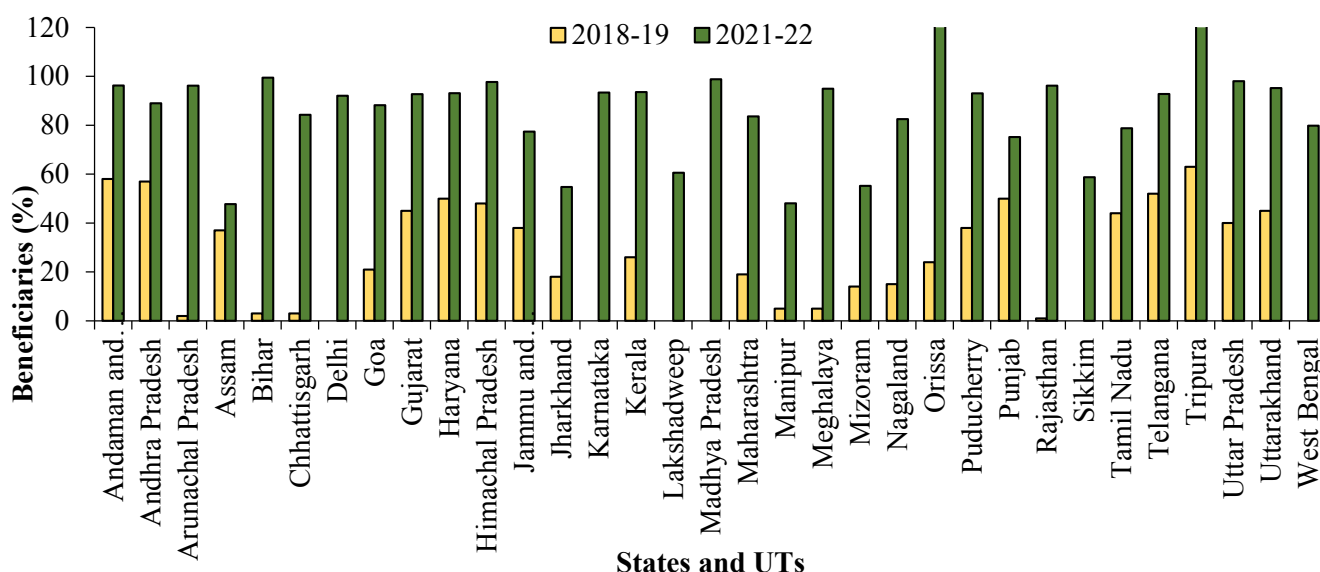


Fig. 2. State wise beneficiaries under PM-KISAN (2018-19 and 2021-22) (Source: <https://pmkisan.gov.in/>).

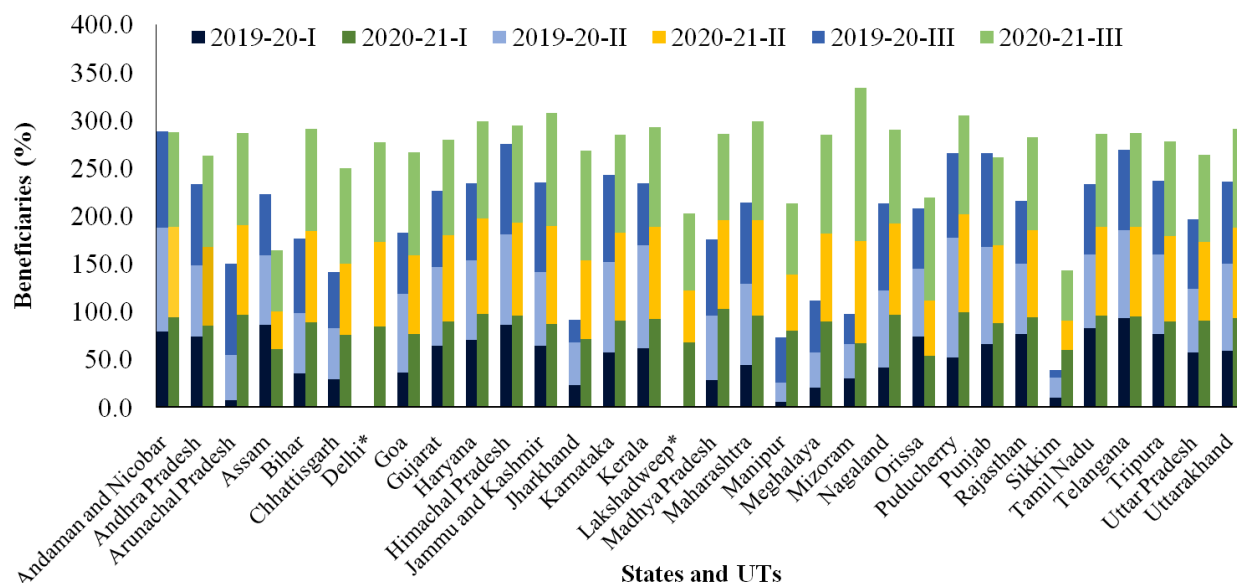


Fig. 3. State and UT-wise beneficiaries under PM-KISAN from 2019-20 to 2020-21 (I, II, III Periods) Source (<https://pmkisan.gov.in/>).

is increased in almost all the states. Even some states like Jharkhand, Manipur, Sikkim shows tremendous increase in number of beneficiaries receiving payment. The Indian government successfully benefitted small land holders. Approximately, Rs. 75,000 crores have been successfully transferred to the farmers account without any middle man and extra commission, of which Rs. 22,000 crores were forwarded during Covid-19 lockdown period (Economic times, 2020). The funds of the scheme were released in three instalments of Rs. 2000 each. In 2018-19 and 2020-21 only one instalment has been transferred and the beneficiaries detail is depicted in Fig. 2. In 2019-20 and 2020-21, the amount was transferred to various beneficiaries of States and UTs in three periods and detail is shown in Fig. 3.

PM-KISAN Mobile app: The government is taking numerous steps to ensure that all adequate recipients of PM-KISAN receive assistance. The National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology developed the PM-KISAN mobile app to extend the reach even further. Using Mobile app, farmers can conduct self-registration, and get to know the status of their correct name as per Aadhaar, registration, payments, and detailed information about the scheme and helpline numbers are also available for any other queries. Interestingly, 5,000,000 + people downloaded and installed this android based app and 49,843 people participated in user rating which is 3.8 (PM-KISAN, 2021; Google play store, 2021).

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

PM-KISAN scheme provided the input and harvesting support to the agricultural land holder of different states and union territories. This might also defend them from deteriorating within side the clutches of moneylenders for meeting such charges and ensure their continuance in the farming activities. Easily accessible mobile application has been developed, farmer can collect all the information regarding the scheme using this app. The PM-KISAN, is launched in 2018, however there is need to arrange various open conference and training programme through which the land holder can get more useful information. The scheme is like a boon to farmers that somehow improved their situation. In the future, the government should boost its budget so that it can meet emerging needs of farmers.

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Conflicts of Interest. The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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