



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

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Context:

The **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** has been launched as a **standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**, with a total financial outlay of **Rs. 2481 crore**. This mission is aligned with the **15th Finance Commission's** recommendations, which cover the period up to **2025-26**.

Background

Previously, **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)** was renamed **Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhti (BPKP)** and was a sub-scheme under the **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY)** in 2019. The initiative was further restructured and renamed **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** starting from the financial year **2023-24**.

Key Highlights of the NMNF Scheme:

1. Implementation:

- The mission will be implemented in **15,000 clusters** across **willing Gram Panchayats**, aiming to reach **1 crore farmers**.
- It will promote **Natural Farming (NF)** on **7.5 lakh hectares** of land over the next **two years**.
- Special emphasis will be placed on regions where **Natural Farming** practices are already prevalent.

1. Bio-input Resource Centres (BRCs):

- The scheme plans to set up **10,000 need-based Bio-input Resource Centres (BRCs)**, ensuring easy access to **ready-to-use bio-inputs** for farmers.

1. Model Demonstration Farms:

- **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)**, **Agricultural Universities (AUs)**, and **farmers' fields** will host **Model Demonstration Farms** to provide hands-on training and showcase best practices for **Natural Farming**.

1. Awareness Generation:

- **Krishi Sakhi** (agriculture ambassadors) will mobilize and assist willing farmers, providing guidance and hand-holding support for adopting **Natural Farming**.

1. Certification:

- The scheme will introduce an **easy and simple certification process**, with a **dedicated common branding** for market access, ensuring that products produced through natural farming can be easily identified and

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marketed.

1. **Monitoring:**

- Implementation progress will be **monitored in real-time** using a **geo-tagged online portal**, ensuring transparency and efficiency in tracking the scheme's outcomes.

1. **Convergence:**

- The scheme will explore **convergence with existing schemes** and **support structures** to enhance its reach and effectiveness.

About Natural Farming (NF):

Natural farming is **chemical-free** and **livestock-based**, integrating crops, trees, and livestock with **functional biodiversity** to create sustainable agricultural systems. Key components of Natural Farming include:

- **Beejamrit**: Seed treatment using **cow dung** and other organic materials.
- **Jivamrit**: A bio-stimulant made to promote **microorganism activity** in the soil.
- **Mulching**: Covering the soil surface with **live crops** or **dead biomass** to retain moisture and improve soil health.
- **Whapasa**: Activating **earthworms** in the soil for **water vapour condensation**, improving soil structure.
- **Plant Protection**: Using **biological concoctions** to protect crops from pests without chemicals.

The **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** seeks to promote **sustainable, chemical-free farming** practices across India. By leveraging **local resources**, enhancing **awareness**, and facilitating **easy access to inputs and certification**, the scheme aims to empower farmers and build a resilient, eco-friendly agricultural system.