



INDIAN AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES, APPS AND POLICIES - BENEFITS AND CONSTRAINTS FROM 2000 TO 2025

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Introduction:

India's agricultural sector has been the backbone of its economy, contributing significantly to employment and food security. Over the years, the Indian government has introduced several schemes, policies, and digital applications to support farmers, enhance productivity, and ensure sustainability. From the early 2000s to 2025, agricultural policies have evolved to address changing climatic conditions, technological advancements, and market dynamics. This article explores key agricultural schemes, mobile apps, and policies implemented over the past 25 years, highlighting their benefits and constraints.

Major Agricultural Schemes (2000-2025)

1. National Agriculture Policy (2000)

The National Agriculture Policy aimed at achieving a growth rate of over 4% per annum through sustainable and efficient resource utilization. It focused on ensuring food security, generating employment, and

increasing farmers' incomes.

Benefits: Encouraged diversification and commercialization of agriculture.

Constraints: Implementation was slow, and small farmers faced challenges in accessing benefits.

2. National Food Security Mission (NFSM) (2007)

The **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)** was launched in **2007-08** by the **Government of India** to increase the production of food grains through area expansion and productivity enhancement. The mission aims to **ensure food security** by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving soil health, and enhancing farmers' income.

Benefits: Enhanced productivity and reduced food shortages.

Constraints: Adoption barriers among small-scale farmers due to lack of awareness.

3. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) (2007)

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Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in **2007** by the Government of India to promote sustainable agricultural growth. The scheme was introduced under the **National Development Council (NDC)** to provide financial assistance to states and encourage them to prepare region-specific agricultural strategies.

Objectives of RKVY

- ⇒ To **increase public investment** in agriculture and allied sectors.
- ⇒ To ensure **holistic development** of agriculture and rural economy.
- ⇒ To provide **flexibility and autonomy** to states in planning and implementing agricultural initiatives.

Benefits: Led to holistic agricultural development through state-specific initiatives.

Constraints: Fund utilization varied across states, impacting uniform growth.

4. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) (2016)

A crop insurance scheme providing financial assistance to farmers in case of crop loss due to natural calamities.

Benefits: Reduced financial distress among farmers.

Constraints: Challenges in claim settlement and low farmer participation due to lack of awareness.

5. Soil Health Card Scheme (2015)

The **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme** was launched by the **Government of India in 2015** to promote soil testing and encourage balanced fertilizer application. The objective is to provide farmers with detailed information about the health of their soil and recommendations for appropriate nutrient management. This initiative helps improve soil fertility, optimize fertilizer use, and enhance agricultural productivity.

Benefits: Improved soil management and reduced excessive fertilizer use.

Constraints: Low adoption due to limited extension services.

6. Kisan Credit Card (KCC) (1998, Revised in 2004 & 2019)

A scheme providing credit to farmers at subsidized interest rates.

Benefits: Increased financial inclusion and access to timely credit.

Constraints: Some farmers struggled with documentation and repayment issues.



7. eNAM (National Agriculture Market) (2016)

An online trading platform to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

Benefits: Increased transparency and better price realization for farmers.

Constraints: Limited digital literacy and internet connectivity in rural areas.



Major Agricultural Apps (2000-2025)

1. Kisan Suvidha App (2016)

The **Kisan Suvidha App** is a mobile application launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India**, in **2016** to provide real-time agricultural information to farmers. The app aims to empower farmers with easy access to essential agricultural resources, weather forecasts, market prices, and expert advisories to enhance productivity and decision-making.

Constraints: Limited awareness among rural farmers.

2. Pusa Krishi (2016)

The **Pusa Krishi App** is a mobile application launched by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Indian**

Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) under the **Government of India (GoI)**. It aims to provide farmers with real-time agricultural solutions, advanced farming techniques, and innovations developed by **Pusa Institute (ICAR-IARI)** to improve productivity and sustainability in Indian agriculture.

Constraints: Limited farmer outreach.

3. AgriMarket App (2016)

Helps farmers get real-time market prices for commodities.

Constraints: Connectivity issues in remote areas.

4. IFFCO Kisan (2015)

Offers information on agriculture, weather, and government schemes.

Constraints: Digital adoption barriers.

Agricultural Policies (2000-2025)

1. Model APMC Act (2003)

Allowed direct marketing and contract farming to benefit farmers.

Constraints: Some states were slow in adoption.

2. National Policy for Farmers (2007)

Focused on improving farmers' income and quality of life.

Constraints: Challenges in effective implementation.

3. Agricultural Export Policy (2018)

Aimed to boost agricultural exports.

Constraints: Infrastructure limitations.

4. Farm Laws (2020, Repealed in 2021)

Aimed at deregulating agricultural markets.

Constraints: Faced opposition and protests, leading to repeal.



Challenges and Constraints in Agricultural Schemes and Policies

Despite various initiatives, challenges persist:

1. **Limited Awareness:** Many farmers remain unaware of available schemes.
2. **Infrastructure Issues:** Inadequate storage, irrigation, and market facilities.
3. **Bureaucratic Hurdles:** Delays in fund allocation and implementation.
4. **Digital Divide:** Lack of internet access and digital literacy hinder adoption of agri-tech solutions.
5. **Climate Change:** Unpredictable weather patterns affecting productivity.

Future Prospects and Recommendations

1. **Stronger Awareness Campaigns:** Using social media, radio, and local organizations to educate farmers.

2. **Technology Integration:** Expanding AI, IoT, and blockchain for precision farming.

3. **Better Infrastructure:** Improving cold storage, irrigation, and transportation.

4. **Policy Reforms:** Simplifying procedures for availing benefits.

5. **Climate-Resilient Agriculture:** Encouraging organic farming and sustainable practices.

Conclusion

India's agricultural sector has witnessed significant policy advancements, digital interventions, and financial schemes aimed at empowering farmers. While these initiatives have yielded substantial benefits, addressing persistent challenges such as awareness, infrastructure, and digital access is crucial for maximizing their impact. Strengthening the implementation framework and incorporating modern agricultural technologies can ensure sustainable growth in Indian agriculture. By bridging the gaps and making policies more accessible, India can move towards a more resilient and prosperous farming sector in the years to come.