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Atmanirbhar Kisan Integrated Development Scheme | Uttar Pradesh | 01 Oct 2021

Why in News

On September 30, 2021, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the '**Atmanirbhar Kisan Integrated Development Scheme**' under the mission of empowering the farmers of Uttar Pradesh. Under this scheme, **2,725 FPOs will be formed**, which will directly benefit 27.25 lakh shareholder farmers.

Key Points

- The state government has decided to set up at least one FPO in every block to increase the income of farmers in the state. **In the current financial year, the state government has earmarked Rs 100 crore for this scheme.**
- Apart from central government institutions, **Uttar Pradesh Diversified Agriculture Support Project (DASP)**, horticulture federations, qualified FPOs and voluntary organizations will work together for the formation of FPOs. An average investment of Rs 1.5 crore is planned from each FPO.
- This scheme of Rs 722.85 crore will significantly increase the income of more than 27 lakh farmers associated with **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** in the next five years.
- At present, out of a total 824 blocks of the state, a total of 693 FPOs have been formed in 408 blocks. On an average around 500 to 1,000 farmers are associated with FPOs.
- Through FPO, farmers will be able to get the right price for their produce. Under the scheme, farmers associated with FPOs working in the state will get a subsidy of four percent on loans of Rs 5 lakh. In this way the institutions associated with agricultural development will be able to reduce the cost of farming and increase the income of the farmers by developing the infrastructure of agriculture.
- Under the scheme, a loan of Rs 5 lakh will be given to cluster based business organizations to form FPOs for five years and Rs 6 lakhs annually for three years to newly formed FPOs.

- Loans will be provided at the rate of three percent to FPOs for creation of post-harvest infrastructure facilities, which will benefit at least 500 to 1,000 farmers associated with the FPOs and also create 3,000 jobs every year.
- Till now, **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** providing fertilizers, seeds and other facilities in the state were not able to take advantage of the scheme of **Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF)** due to lack of margin money. Now 1,500 PS of the state will be able to benefit the farmers from this scheme.
- Also, with the availability of cheap loans, each PACS of the state will be able to start a project worth Rs 20 lakh. In such projects of PACS, the state government will give Rs 4 lakh as margin money, while AIF will give Rs 16 lakh. Its interest rate will be one percent.
- With this money, PACS will be able to build godowns, which will help farmers in storing their produce for a long time. In addition, a plan of Rs 140 crore has been prepared for the construction of post-harvest storage and management infrastructure in 27 mandis of Krishi Utpadan Mandi Parishad. Mandi Parishad will also be able to increase resources by taking a loan from AIF at an interest rate of just 3 per cent.