



# Agriculture-Related Initiatives in Union Budget 2024-25

[Source: IE](#)

## Why in News?

In the [Union Budget 2024-25](#), the Finance Minister announced the allocation of Rs 500 crore for providing drones to [women self-help groups \(SHGs\)](#) under the [Namo Drone Didi scheme](#), along with support for one crore farmers to adopt natural farming practices.

## What are the Key Initiatives in the Field of Agriculture?

- **Namo Drone Didi Scheme:**
  - **The scheme was launched in March 2024** and aims to **provide drones to 15,000 selected women SHGs** for offering rental services to farmers.
    - The implementation period spans from 2023-24 to 2025-26.
    - Rs 500 crore has been earmarked for this initiative under the Union budget 2024-25.
  - This scheme will **empower women in rural areas by integrating them into the technological advancements** in agriculture, thus fostering entrepreneurship.
  - Drones will **enhance farming efficiency through [precision agriculture](#)**, leading to better crop management and yield optimisation.
- **Support for Natural Farming:**
  - One crore farmers will be encouraged to adopt [natural farming practices](#), supported by certification and branding.
    - **Natural farming** is an agricultural practice that **emphasises minimal intervention** and the use of natural resources to cultivate crops.
  - This will be carried out through scientific institutions and willing [gram panchayats](#).
  - Under the [National Mission on Natural Farming](#), **Rs 365.64 crore has been allocated for 2024-25**.
    - 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres will be established.
- **Jan Samarth-based Kisan Credit:**
  - The issuance of **Jan Samarth-based Kisan Credit** will be enabled in states, streamlining access to 13 government schemes through a single-window online platform.
- **Pulses, Oilseeds, and Vegetable Production:**
  - A strategy is being formulated to **achieve self-sufficiency ('atmanirbharta')** in [pulses](#) and [oilseeds production](#), which is crucial as India currently relies heavily on imports for edible oil.
  - **Large-scale clusters for vegetable production will be developed** near major consumption centres.
    - This includes promoting [farmer-producer organisations](#), cooperatives, and startups for efficient supply chains.
- **National Cooperation Policy and Rural Economy:**
  - The government announced a **National Cooperation Policy** for systematic and orderly all-round development of the [cooperative sector](#).
  - Fast-tracking the growth of the rural economy and the generation of employment opportunities on a large scale will be the policy goal.
- **Shrimp Production and Export:**

- India is one of the **world's largest shrimp exporters**.
  - In 2022-23, India's seafood exports stood at USD 8.09 billion and shrimps accounted for a bulk of these exports at USD 5.6 billion.
- Further financial support will be provided for **setting up a network of nucleus breeding centres** for **shrimp broodstocks, enhancing shrimp production** and export capabilities.

## Other Initiatives Related to Agriculture

- [Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region \(MOVCDNER\)](#)
- [National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture](#)
- [Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana \(PKVY\)](#)
- [Sub-mission on AgroForestry \(SMAF\)](#)
- [Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana](#)
- [AgriStack](#)
- [Digital Agriculture Mission](#)
- [Unified Farmer Service Platform \(UFSP\)](#)
- [National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture \(NeGP-A\)](#)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims:

**Q1. Under the Kisan Credit Card scheme, short-term credit support is given to farmers for which of the following purposes? (2020)**

1. Working capital for maintenance of farm assets
2. Purchase of combine harvesters, tractors, and mini trucks
3. Consumption requirements of farm households
4. Post-harvest expenses
5. Construction of family house and setting up of village cold storage facility

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Ans: (b)**