



Haryana Plan for Reduction in Farm Fires

Why in News?

Recently, The **government of Haryana** has developed a framework to **make use of all the [leftover stubble](#)** after the harvesting of [paddy crops](#).

- This initiative aims to **reduce the occurrence of [farm fires](#)**, which contribute to the hazardous [air pollution](#) in northern India during the onset of winter every year.

Key Points

- The agriculture department has estimated that **38.8 lakh acres of farmland across Haryana will be utilized for the cultivation of paddy** in 2024. These crops are projected to **generate 81 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of residues**.
 - The residue, or straw, that remains after farmers harvest paddy is what they end up burning to quickly clear the land for another round of sowing.
- The state government is going to introduce [Crop Residue Management scheme](#) which involves:
 - **In-situ stubble management** involves **chopping and mixing stubble** into the soil as [compost](#). To support this, the **government will provide 90,000 machines**, including slashers, and **offer farmers Rs 1,000 per acre as an operational charge**.
 - **Ex-situ management** incentivizes the **use of stubble in industries**, such as [biomass](#) for [biofuels](#) or raw material for packaging and cardboard units. This **creates an economic alternative to stubble burning**, as industries purchase crop residues from farmers.
 - The government's plan involves distributing 1,405 baler machines to districts, which will then be provided to farmers.
- This is aimed at making the **collection and storage of crop residues more convenient**. Additionally, officials are working on establishing partnerships with industries to purchase these crop residues.

Stubble Burning

- Stubble (parali) burning is a **method of removing paddy crop residues** from the field to sow wheat from the last week of September to November, coinciding with the withdrawal of [southwest monsoon](#).
- Stubble burning is **a process of setting on fire the straw stubble**, left after the harvesting of grains, like paddy, wheat, etc. It is usually required in areas that use the combined harvesting method which leaves crop residue behind.
- It is a **common practice in October and November across North West India**, but primarily in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

