



UP-PRAGATI Accelerator Programs (UPPAP)

Why in News?

KisanKraft Ltd, the Bengaluru-based agri-firm has joined the [World Bank's Water Resource Group \(WRG\)'s low methane rice project](#) to promote the [Direct Seeded Rice \(DSR\)](#) in Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- The company partnered with seed companies **Delta Agri Genetics** and **Savannah Seeds** to provide its DSR seed varieties for multi-location trials.
- It has developed **15 new paddy varieties suitable** for the DSR cultivation method, which requires less water.
- These varieties **do not need stagnant water, reduce water needs by half, and also decrease the use of pesticides and fertilizers.**
- The company will conduct the **pilots in Rae Bareilly, Sitapur, Pratapgarh, Barabanki, Unnao, and Ayodhya districts.**
- **Rice is India's most crucial food crop**, using the largest portion of freshwater and occupying **28% of irrigated lands.**
- Due to increasing freshwater scarcity and soil degradation, new technologies like Dry Direct Seeded Rice (dry-DSR) are becoming more popular.

UP-PRAGATI

- UP has launched an accelerator program called **UP-PRAGATI in collaboration with the 2030 Water Resources Group, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation,** and the private sector.
- The program aims to **promote water-use efficiency and low-carbon practices in agriculture** through technological and institutional innovations to boost incomes across the state.
- The UP PRAGATI program **aims to promote Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) across the state** over the next five years on 250,000 hectares in collaboration with stakeholders.

Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)

- **Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)**, also known as the **'broadcasting seed technique,'** is a **water-saving method of sowing paddy.**
- In this method, **seeds are directly drilled into the fields. In contrast to the traditional water-intensive method of transplanting rice seedlings from a nursery to waterlogged fields,** this method saves groundwater.
- There is no nursery preparation or transplantation involved in this method.
- Farmers have to only level their land and give one pre-sowing irrigation.

