

# Per Drop More Crop

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Water is one of the most crucial inputs for agriculture, yet India's irrigation practices have historically been inefficient, with high levels of water wastage and uneven distribution. To address these challenges, the Government of India launched the "Per Drop More Crop"

(PDMC) scheme, a flagship component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The scheme aims to promote micro-irrigation technologies such as drip and sprinkler systems to ensure efficient use of water and improved crop productivity.

## Objectives of the Scheme

The "Per Drop More Crop" scheme was designed with the following key objectives:

1. Enhance water use efficiency at the farm level through micro-irrigation.
2. Promote precision irrigation technologies like drip and sprinkler systems.
3. Encourage sustainable agriculture by minimizing water wastage.
4. Increase crop productivity and farmers' income through better irrigation management.
5. Promote convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, integrating water sources, distribution, and efficient use.

## Key Features and Components

- **Micro-Irrigation Support:** The scheme provides financial assistance to farmers for the installation of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, reducing their dependency on rainfall and optimizing water use.
- **Capacity Building and Training:** Farmers receive technical guidance and training on water-saving practices and proper maintenance of micro-irrigation systems.
- **Focus on Small and Marginal Farmers:** Special emphasis is given to supporting smallholders who face greater constraints in accessing irrigation infrastructure.
- **Convergence with Other Schemes:** The PDMC works in coordination with schemes like the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for holistic agricultural development.

## Implementation and Funding Pattern

The PDMC scheme is implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

- The Central and State Governments share the cost in a 60:40 ratio for general states and 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan states.
- Farmers are required to contribute a nominal share, ensuring ownership and accountability.
- The scheme is implemented through state agriculture departments, with technical support from national and state-level agencies.



### Achievements and Impact

Since its launch, the “Per Drop More Crop” scheme has achieved remarkable progress:

- Over 80 lakh hectares of agricultural land have been brought under micro-irrigation.
- Adoption of drip and sprinkler systems has led to 30–40% water savings and 20–30% increase in crop yield.
- The scheme has been instrumental in promoting crop diversification, with farmers shifting from traditional water-intensive crops to high-value horticultural crops.
- It has also reduced energy consumption due to lower water usage and enhanced resilience to climate variability and droughts

### Challenges in Implementation

Despite its success, the scheme faces several challenges:

1. Limited awareness and adoption among small and marginal farmers.
2. High initial cost of micro-irrigation systems, despite subsidies.
3. Maintenance issues and lack of after-sale services.
4. Uneven implementation across states due to administrative delays and limited technical manpower.

### Recent Developments and Digital Innovations

In recent years, the government has integrated digital technologies to enhance transparency and monitoring.

- The “Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF)” under NABARD supports states to expand micro-irrigation coverage.
- The PMKSY-PDMC Mobile App helps in real-time monitoring, geo-tagging of assets, and data-driven planning.
- States like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh have showcased best practices in drip irrigation and automation of irrigation systems.

### Conclusion

The “Per Drop More Crop” scheme represents a major step towards climate-smart, resource-efficient agriculture in India. By promoting precision irrigation and judicious use of water, the scheme not only enhances agricultural productivity but also contributes to sustainability,

water conservation, and food security. Going forward, greater focus on digital integration, awareness campaigns, and inclusive financing will further strengthen the impact of this initiative, ensuring that every drop of water truly yields more crop.