

Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)

July 31, 2021

In news

Recently, the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare mentioned about the assistance given to women farmers under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)

About Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)

- The Ministry of Rural Development started this scheme to provide facilities to women farmers.
- MKSP is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY –NRLM), which is under implementation since 2011.
- **The primary objective of MKSP** is to empower women by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and create sustainable livelihood for rural women.

Focus & Strategy

- MKSP recognizes the identity of “Mahila” as “Kisan” and strives to build the capacity of women in the domain of agro-ecologically sustainable practices.
- It has a clear vision to reach out to the poorest of poor households and expand the portfolio of activities currently handled by the Mahila Kisan.
- The focus of MKSP is on capacitating smallholders to adopt sustainable climate resilient agro-ecology and eventually create a pool of skilled community professionals.
- Its objective is to strengthen smallholder agriculture through promotion of sustainable agriculture practices such as Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture

(CMSA), Non Pesticide Management (NPM), Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), Pashu-Sakhi model for doorstep animal care services, Sustainable regeneration and harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Produce.

Strategy of MKSP's Project Implementing Agency (PIA)	Use of locally adopted, farmer led technologies & practices
	Enlist support of Self Help Groups, NGOs, Farmers groups, Farmer Schools etc.
	Using Community Mobilization among women to spread information of sustainable agricultural methods.
	Capacity building through hand holding, formal vocational courses etc
	Focus on poorest of poor & Vulnerable women belonging to SC/ST, minority, landless and primitive tribal groups
	Priority to Women-headed households, women group engaged in agricultural and allied activities, Have a participatory approach and Bottom up planning

Specific objectives of MKSP

- To create sustainable agricultural livelihood opportunities for women in agriculture.
- To enhance the participation of women in agriculture in a productive manner.
- To enhance the marginal capacities of women in agriculture for better management of biodiversity.
- To improve the skills and capabilities of women in agriculture to support farm and non-farm based activities.
- To enable women to have better access to inputs and services of the government and other agencies.
- To improve the capacities of women in agriculture to access the resources of other institutions and schemes within a convergence framework.

Themes under MKSP are:

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Non-Timber Forest Produce
- Livestock
- Fisheries

Key features

- MKSP recognizes the **centrality of women in agriculture** and therefore aims to provide direct and indirect support to enable them to achieve sustainable agriculture production.
- It mainly focuses on **strengthening community institutions of poor women farmers** and leveraging their strengths to promote sustainable agriculture.
- **Funding:** Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) provide 75% (90% for North East and hill states) to the project submitted by the State Governments/PIAs under MKSP. Balance is to be contributed by the respective state governments or any other donor agencies, national and international.
- **Implementation:** The program is being implemented by NRLM in partnership with State Departments/CSO as implementing partners.