

Promotion of agricultural mechanization for in-situ management of crop residue in the state of Punjab, Haryana, UP & NCT of Delhi

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Source: PIB & Scheme guidelines

Background

Earlier, as per directions from Prime Minister's Office in 2017 with regard to the pollution caused in Delhi NCR due to stubble burning in States surrounding, **a high-level committee under Secretary (DARE)** has been set up. **The committee has recommended for adopting mechanized crop residue management.** As per the recommendations Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has formulated a Scheme which was included in the 2018-19 Budget.

Objectives of the Scheme

- Protecting the environment from air pollution and preventing loss of nutrients and soil micro-organisms caused by burning of crop residue
- **Promoting in-situ management of crop residue by retention and incorporation into the soil through the use of appropriate mechanization inputs**
- **Promoting Farm Machinery Banks for custom hiring of in-situ crop residue management machinery** to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership.
- Creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration, capacity building activities and

differentiated Information, Education and Communication strategies for effective utilization and management of crop residue.

Components of the scheme

- Establish Farm Machinery Banks or Custom Hiring Centres of in-situ crop residue management machinery
- Procurement of Agriculture Machinery and Equipment for in-situ crop residue management
- Information, Education, and Communication for awareness on in-situ crop residue management

Key features the scheme

- The **Central Sector Scheme**, 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the State of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & NCT of Delhi' was launched by the Government of India to tackle air pollution and to subsidize machinery required for in-situ management of crop residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi.
- Within one year of its implementation utilizing an amount of Rs. 500 crore, the happy seeder/zero tillage technology was adopted in 8 lakh hectares of land in the North-Western States of India.
- Under the scheme, **financial assistance @50% of the cost is provided** to the farmers for the purchase of in-situ crop residue management machines on individual ownership basis.
- The **financial assistance for the establishment of Custom Hiring Centres of in-situ crop residue management machinery is @ 80% of the project cost.**