

Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP)

June 24, 2019

Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP) was implemented as a sub-scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

- To improve quality of life of farmers' especially, small and marginal farmers by offering a complete package of activities to maximize farm returns.
- Increasing agricultural productivity of rainfed areas in a sustainable manner by adopting appropriate farming system based approaches.
- To minimise the adverse impact of possible crop failure due to drought, flood or un-even rainfall distribution through diversified and composite farming system.
- Restoration of confidence in rainfed agriculture by creating sustained employment opportunities through improved on-farm technologies and cultivation practices
- Enhancement of farmer's income and livelihood support for reduction of poverty in rainfed areas

Rainfed areas account for nearly 57 per cent of the agricultural land in India. These areas assume special significance in terms of ecology, agricultural productivity and livelihoods for millions. With proper management, rainfed areas have the potential of contributing a larger share to food grain production. In-fact the potential is such that there is more opportunity for faster agricultural growth here than in irrigated areas.

The basic endeavour of this programme is to encourage exploitation of different farming systems based on the natural resource endowments created by the farmer or by schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National

Horticulture Mission (NHM).

This would reduce the risk of crop losses due to weather vagaries, harness efficiency of resources, assure food and livelihood security etc.

The objective of the programme is to improve the quality of life of the farmer, especially that of the small and marginal farmer.

This would be done by offering a package that would maximize farm returns by increasing agricultural productivity, minimizing adverse impact of crop failure caused by drought, floods etc. and restoration of confidence in this form of agriculture by creating sustained employment opportunities through improved on-farm technologies, etc.

The strategy would focus on multi-cropping, rotational cropping, inter-cropping, mixed-cropping along with allied activities that include horticulture, livestock etc.

This would not only maximise farm returns but also mitigate impacts of floods, drought etc. To do this the programme will focus on –

- Minimum tillage practice,
- Support of existing income generating activities like fisheries, agriculture, mushroom etc. Conducting complementary activities like construction of ponds, land treatment, wells, supply of pumps etc,
- Adoption of a cluster approach to utilize the potential of available or created common resources,
- Support for value addition and storage structures to facilitate better returns for farm produce.

Financial resources of Rs 100,000/- will be provided to farmers in arid & semi-arid zones and Rs 80,000/- for sub-humid & humid areas. This money does not include that for construction of tanks and polyhouses.

The programme would be **implemented** in all rainfed areas which have large areas of cultivable land and which have potential for increasing agricultural productivity.

Other areas would be –

- The districts having less than 60% of cultivated area under irrigation and influenced by arid, semi-arid etc. agro-ecosystems
- Areas already developed under watershed development schemes,
- Areas where water resources have been developed under MNREGA etc.
- Areas being developed under new watershed schemes,
- Areas where some commodities are being promoted under,
- New areas which have potential.

This programme will be implemented within the RKVY.

The state agricultural department will be the nodal agency for the implementation of the scheme.

To ensure proper coordination the principal district agriculture officer/joint director may involve Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

Project proposals will need to include village development plans.