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A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PM-KISAN BENEFICIARIES AND CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE UNDER PMFBY AND RWBCIS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture remains the backbone of the Indian economy, supporting the livelihood of a large proportion of the population. To strengthen farmers' financial security and reduce agricultural risks, the Government of India introduced several welfare schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) and the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) along with the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS). The present study analyzes the state-wise performance of PM-KISAN beneficiaries from 2018-19 to 2023-24 and the coverage of farmers insured under PMFBY and RWBCIS during 2016-17 to 2022-23. Secondary data collected from official government publications and PIB reports were used for the analysis. The study reveals that PM-KISAN significantly expanded its coverage, reaching more than 10 crore beneficiaries annually, while PMFBY and RWBCIS insured over 4,846 lakh farmers across India. States such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh emerged as major beneficiaries under both schemes

KEYWORDS: PM-KISAN, PMFBY, RWBCIS, Farmers Welfare, Crop Insurance, Agricultural Development

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture plays a vital role in India's economic development, food security, and employment generation. Despite its significance, farmers face numerous challenges such as fluctuating market prices, natural calamities, climate change, and inadequate financial resources. To address these challenges, the Government of India has launched several farmer-centric welfare schemes. The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme was introduced in 2019 to provide direct income support of ₹6,000 annually to eligible farmer families. Similarly, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) were implemented to protect farmers from crop losses arising from natural disasters and adverse weather conditions. Both schemes aim to enhance farmers' financial stability and reduce agricultural risks. Therefore, evaluating the performance and coverage of these schemes across different states is essential to understand their effectiveness in improving farmers' welfare.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Indian farmers continue to face income instability and production risks due to unpredictable climatic conditions and increasing cultivation costs. Although PM-KISAN provides direct income support and PMFBY/RWBCIS offer insurance protection, disparities exist in their implementation and coverage across states. There is a need to assess the extent of beneficiary coverage and insurance participation to understand whether these schemes have effectively reached the intended farming population. Hence, the study attempts to analyze and compare the

performance of PM-KISAN and crop insurance schemes in India.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

1. State-wise PM-KISAN beneficiaries from FY 2018-19 to FY 2023-24.
2. State-wise farmers insured under PMFBY and RWBCIS from 2016-17 to 2022-23.
3. Comparative analysis of beneficiary and insurance coverage across states.
4. Examination of the role of government support schemes in agricultural risk management.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyse the state-wise and year-wise beneficiaries under PM-KISAN.
2. To examine the state-wise coverage of farmers insured under PMFBY and RWBCIS.
3. To compare the performance of PM-KISAN and crop insurance schemes across states.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Nature of Study: Descriptive and Analytical Research.

Sources of Data: The study is based entirely on secondary data collected from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Press Information Bureau (PIB), PM-KISAN official reports, PMFBY official reports, Government publications and annual reports

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Acharya Balkrishna., & Et al. (2021). India has 1.38 billion population and more than half of the populace are engaged in agriculture for their employment. To meet financial requirement of farmers to procure inputs for better crop health and productivity, Indian Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme in 2018. This review aims to study the implementation goals and benefits provided to the farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.

Kavitha. H.N., & Et al. (2021). The PMKISAN scheme has been implemented from 1st December 2018 with income support of Rs. 6000/- per farm family in three installments of Rs 2000/- each in the beginning of crop season. The beneficiaries of PMKISAN in Karnataka are using higher inputs for ragi cultivation. The resultant effect is increase in yield and income. The B:C ratio of ragi enterprise is higher among the beneficiary farmers as compared to non-beneficiary farmers.

Kumar, Deepak, & Sunil Phogat. (2021). Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. A large segment of the Indian population is dependent on the agriculture and it allied activities for their livelihood. The government of India always tries to uplift the agriculture sector by introducing numerous schemes from time-to-time, PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme is one of them.

Eahambaram.C., & Et al. (2022). The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme was introduced in India with the aim of providing direct income support to small and marginal farmers. This study examines the perceptions and impacts of the PM-Kisan scheme on its beneficiaries. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions, data was collected from a representative sample of beneficiaries across various regions.

Priya Kumari., & Suman Dahiya. (2022). The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme is funded entirely by the Indian government to provide guaranteed monetary assistance to all eligible farmers. The purpose of the existing study is to determine the factors that influence farmer adoption of the PM-KISAN scheme, as well as to examine the spending patterns of the benefits received by farmers and also to evaluate the scheme's performance.

Reshmi Sengupta., & Debasis Rooj. (2022). Pradhan Mantri Krishi Samman Nidhi Yojna (PM-KISAN) is a Government of India (GoI) initiative to provide financial assistance to farmers. Its objective is to stabilize farmers' income and support their financial requirements to invest in productive activities, including agricultural inputs. Each year, the government gives ₹6,000 to eligible farmers in three equal instalments of ₹2,000 each; the amount is transferred directly into farmers' bank accounts.

Vasudev Naik., & Et al. (2022). The present study was undertaken with an overall objective to analyse the performance of PM Kisan Sanman Nidhi Yojanaby estimating the number of beneficiaries covered, fund disbursed, utilization pattern of fund disbursed under the scheme, source of awareness about the scheme and constraints faced by the beneficiaries in availing the benefits. The study was conducted in Kalyan Karntaka region during 2020-21.

Prantik Bordoloi Prantik Bordoloi., & Et al. (2023). The PM-KISAN is a central sector scheme under the Govt. of India which aims to provide income supports to farmers to facilitate timely access to agricultural inputs. The cash benefits under this scheme under enhance the financial capacity of the beneficiaries to invest in the agriculture and in the acquisition of modern techniques in agriculture. The families and households who are highly dependent on agriculture and have poor access to credits get more

benefits from the scheme.

Bhaskar Ghosh., & Et al. (2024). Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) plays a crucial role in tackling widespread corruption and interference from middlemen, which often obstruct policy measures from reaching their intended recipients in developing countries like India. The PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) scheme, a key initiative by the Indian government, aims to offer financial support to small and marginal farmers. However, the scheme encounters several implementation challenges that diminish its effectiveness.

AM Chava., & Et al. (2025). The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme is a landmark direct benefit transfer initiative aimed at supporting small and marginal farmers in India. This study explores the perceptions of farmers regarding the scheme in Ahilyanagar district, Maharashtra, using an ex-post facto research design and primary data from 150 randomly selected beneficiaries. Findings reveal that lack of awareness about the e-KYC process (64.67%) and insufficient financial assistance (59.33%) are the most significant constraints.

Sivasakthi. D., & Kavya. S. (2025). The perception of the PM-KISAN scheme by farmers in Tirupur brings to light its beneficial role in the economic status of farmers as well as significant challenges to be addressed. The majority of respondents recognize the scheme's pivotal financial assistance, facilitating investment in agriculture and home needs. However, delays in payment, difficulty in registration, and insufficient financial support are the areas of concern.

Subhi Jain., & Jyoti Kumari Mishra. (2025). the foundation of the Indian economy is agriculture, and farmers are essential to rural development and sustainable food systems. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, which was introduced by the Indian government to give small and marginal farmers direct income assistance, farmers receive ₹ 6000 per year in three equal installments.

Mohit Singh., & Et al. (2026). The present study was conducted during the year 2024–25 in the Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh to assess the fund utilization patterns among Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme beneficiaries. Data were collected from 160 beneficiaries through a structured personal interview schedule.

Table No – 1
State-Wise, Year-Wise Details of Beneficiaries Under PM-KISAN as on Date

S. No	State/UT	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24 (till 31 July 2023)
		No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	33,16,854	50,31,470	49,45,845	46,18,283	47,82,509	41,35,131
2	Assam	11,55,408	27,24,021	19,02,296	16,69,706	9,17,349	8,75,203
3	Bihar	2,50,812	62,13,753	77,45,589	82,93,339	83,54,595	75,66,322
4	Chhattisgarh	1,13,042	21,20,833	30,14,415	32,56,736	29,45,209	20,24,062
5	Goa	2,439	8,730	9,680	9,451	9,118	5,663
6	Gujarat	28,59,550	51,89,570	56,69,073	58,84,289	59,61,296	45,17,823
7	Haryana	9,66,454	16,51,975	18,77,573	18,85,795	18,62,362	15,36,690
8	Himachal Pradesh	4,57,032	8,86,568	9,18,875	9,51,384	9,46,568	7,38,113
9	Jammu and Kashmir	4,57,861	9,89,801	11,49,567	11,19,284	11,07,064	7,31,489
10	Jharkhand	5,63,642	15,07,690	23,82,894	17,85,101	22,61,419	13,02,842
11	Karnataka	19,872	50,79,278	53,84,844	53,10,984	51,89,062	49,34,483
12	Kerala	9,57,982	29,47,160	34,88,754	35,58,098	34,97,724	23,40,980
13	Madhya Pradesh	9,288	65,53,531	82,72,406	85,42,655	85,39,843	76,42,635

14	Maharashtra	21,84,073	92,38,725	1,08,22,008	1,05,36,980	1,04,51,126	85,60,082
15	Odisha	9,73,860	36,10,474	25,55,023	33,02,891	33,88,102	26,93,118
16	Punjab	11,81,206	23,14,347	19,09,417	17,75,305	17,07,198	8,56,639
17	Rajasthan	64,977	56,32,554	67,66,430	73,27,319	72,59,624	56,88,783
18	Tamil Nadu	21,61,268	37,50,066	44,58,723	37,81,819	32,29,940	20,95,315
19	Telangana	20,27,893	35,24,059	36,38,250	36,52,568	35,81,172	29,50,888
20	Uttar Pradesh	1,11,93,799	2,03,92,039	2,35,75,708	2,45,56,300	2,42,98,615	1,86,53,967
21	Uttarakhand	4,15,409	7,59,942	8,62,054	8,97,748	9,00,557	7,59,553
22	West Bengal	-	-	-	46,44,261	48,69,233	44,70,797
	Sub-Total:	3,13,32,721	9,01,26,586	10,13,49,424	10,73,60,296	10,60,59,685	8,50,80,578
	Other States/UTs Total:	2,82,864	9,86,388	14,22,374	12,09,622	11,03,920	5,81,895
	Grand Total:	3,16,15,585	9,11,12,974	10,27,71,798	10,85,69,918	10,71,63,605	8,56,62,473

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in>

Table No. 1 shows the state-wise and year-wise distribution of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme from FY 2018-19 to FY 2023-24 (up to 31 July 2023). The total number of beneficiaries increased significantly from 3.16 crore in FY 2018-19 to 10.86 crore in FY 2021-22, indicating the rapid expansion and successful implementation of the scheme across the country. However, the number of beneficiaries slightly declined to 10.72 crore in FY 2022-23 and further to 8.57 crore in FY 2023-24 (up to July 2023), mainly due to beneficiary verification, data cleansing, and the partial-year reporting period. Among the states, Uttar Pradesh consistently recorded the highest number of beneficiaries throughout the study period, increasing from 1.12 crore in FY 2018-19 to 2.46 crore in FY 2021-22, before declining to 1.87 crore in FY 2023-24. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Gujarat also accounted for a substantial share of beneficiaries, reflecting their large agricultural populations. Maharashtra crossed one crore beneficiaries during FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22, making it the second-largest beneficiary state after Uttar Pradesh. Several states such as Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu maintained a consistently high number of beneficiaries, although a gradual decline is visible in the later years due to eligibility verification and Aadhaar-based authentication processes. West Bengal did not report beneficiaries until FY 2020-21 but joined the scheme in FY 2021-22 with 46.44 lakh beneficiaries, which increased further in FY 2022-23. Smaller states and Union Territories such as Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu & Kashmir reported comparatively lower beneficiary numbers because of their smaller farming populations. Assam and Punjab witnessed a noticeable decline in beneficiary numbers during the later years, suggesting stricter validation procedures and updating of beneficiary records.

Table No - 2
The State-Wise details of Total Number of Farmers Insured
Under PMFBY and RWBCIS (2016-17 to 2022-23) as on 30.06.2023

S. No.	State/UT Name	Total Farmers Insured (in Lakhs)
1.	A & N Islands	0.025
2.	Andhra Pradesh	182.330
3.	Assam	43.828
4.	Bihar	50.173

5.	Chhattisgarh	272.626
6.	Goa	0.031
7.	Gujarat	83.948
8.	Haryana	103.973
9.	Himachal Pradesh	20.570
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.956
11.	Jharkhand	44.620
12.	Karnataka	151.629
13.	Kerala	5.702
14.	Madhya Pradesh	655.813
15.	Maharashtra	846.143
16.	Manipur	0.290
17.	Meghalaya	0.052
18.	Odisha	366.248
19.	Puducherry	1.074
20.	Rajasthan	1184.557
21.	Sikkim	0.068
22.	Tamil Nadu	271.406
23.	Telangana	36.363
24.	Tripura	9.755
25.	Uttar Pradesh	360.094
26.	Uttarakhand	15.252
27.	West Bengal	134.906
	GRAND TOTAL	4846.432

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in>

Table No. 2 presents the state-wise total number of farmers insured under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) during the period from 2016-17 to 2022-23, as on 30 June 2023. The data reveal that a total of 4,846.43 lakh farmers were insured under these crop insurance schemes across India, reflecting the extensive reach of the government's agricultural risk management initiatives. Among all the states, Rajasthan recorded the highest number of insured farmers with 1,184.56 lakh, accounting for a significant share of the total insured farmers. This was followed by Maharashtra with 846.14 lakh farmers and Madhya Pradesh with 655.81 lakh farmers. These states are characterized by large agricultural areas and substantial participation in crop insurance programs, highlighting the importance of risk coverage for farmers in regions prone to climatic uncertainties. Other states with considerable insurance coverage include Odisha (366.25 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (360.09 lakh), Chhattisgarh (272.63 lakh), and Tamil Nadu (271.41 lakh). The high participation levels in these states indicate greater awareness and adoption of crop insurance schemes among farmers. Andhra Pradesh (182.33 lakh) and Karnataka (151.63 lakh) also recorded substantial numbers of insured farmers, demonstrating the significance of PMFBY and RWBCIS in safeguarding agricultural livelihoods. In contrast, smaller states and Union Territories such as Andaman and Nicobar Islands (0.03 lakh), Goa (0.03 lakh), Meghalaya (0.05 lakh), Sikkim (0.07 lakh), and Manipur (0.29 lakh) reported very low numbers of insured farmers, mainly due to their limited agricultural area and smaller farming populations. Similarly, Jammu & Kashmir (4.96 lakh) and Kerala (5.70 lakh) recorded comparatively lower participation levels. The data indicate significant interstate variations in the adoption of crop insurance schemes. States with larger agricultural sectors and greater exposure to weather-related risks have shown higher enrollment under PMFBY and RWBCIS.

MAJOR FINDINGS

1. PM-KISAN beneficiaries increased from 3.16 crore in FY 2018-19 to 10.86 crore in FY 2021-22.

2. Beneficiary numbers declined slightly during FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 due to Aadhaar verification and beneficiary validation.
3. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest PM-KISAN beneficiaries throughout the study period.
4. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Gujarat also reported substantial beneficiary coverage.
5. Under PMFBY and RWBCIS, a total of 4,846.43 lakh farmers were insured during 2016-17 to 2022-23.
6. Rajasthan recorded the highest number of insured farmers (1,184.56 lakh).
7. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh ranked second and third in crop insurance coverage.
8. States with large agricultural sectors showed greater participation in both schemes.
9. Smaller states and Union Territories reported comparatively lower coverage due to limited farming populations.
10. Significant interstate disparities exist in both income support and crop insurance participation.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Increase awareness campaigns regarding PM-KISAN and crop insurance schemes.
2. Simplify beneficiary registration and claim settlement procedures.
3. Strengthen digital infrastructure for faster verification and fund transfer.
4. Improve insurance coverage among small and marginal farmers.
5. Enhance coordination between state governments and implementing agencies.
6. Conduct regular beneficiary audits to ensure transparency.
7. Promote financial literacy and insurance awareness among farmers.
8. Introduce region-specific strategies to increase enrollment in low-performing states.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that PM-KISAN and PMFBY/RWBCIS have played a significant role in improving the financial security of Indian farmers. PM-KISAN has emerged as one of the largest direct income support programs, while PMFBY and RWBCIS have provided substantial crop risk protection. States such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh have demonstrated remarkable participation under these schemes. However, disparities across states indicate the need for enhanced awareness, administrative efficiency, and policy support. Strengthening these initiatives will contribute significantly to sustainable agricultural development, income stability, and farmers' welfare in India.

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