Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY): Nurturing Organic Farming in India

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1. Background and Introduction

- **Launched:** 2015
- **Under:** *National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)*
- **Nodal Ministry:** *Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*
- **Objective:**
  - Promote **organic farming** through **cluster-based approaches**.
  - Restore **soil health and ecological balance**.
  - Improve **farmers' income** through low-cost, sustainable agriculture.
  - Strengthen **food safety** and **environmental sustainability**.

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2. Financial Outlay and Achievements (As of 2025)

- **Funds Released (2015–25):** ₹2,265.86 crore
- **Funds Released (FY 2024–25):** ₹205.46 crore under *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)*
- **Area Covered:** ~15 lakh hectares under organic farming
- **Clusters Formed:** 52,289
- **Farmers Benefitted:** 25.30 lakh (as of Feb 2025)
- **Digital Presence:**
  - *Jaivik Kheti Portal* – 6.23 lakh farmers, 19,016 groups, 89 input suppliers, and 8,676 buyers registered (by Dec 2024).

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3. Objectives of PKVY

1. **Promote organic agriculture** by adopting eco-friendly farming methods.
2. **Enhance soil fertility** and **microbial activity** through reduced chemical use.
3. **Develop self-sustaining farming models** based on local resources.
4. **Encourage farmer collectives** through cluster formation (20 ha per cluster).
5. **Ensure market linkages** for organic produce and fair price realization.

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4. Eligibility Criteria

- **Who can apply:**
    - All farmers and farming institutions with up to **2 hectares of land**.
- **Cluster Formation:**
    - Minimum cluster size: **20 hectares**.
    - Farmers within a cluster adopt organic farming collectively to maintain uniform standards.

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5. Financial Assistance and Benefits

Each farmer receives **₹31,500 per hectare** for **3 years**, distributed as follows:

Component	Description
On-farm & Off-farm Inputs	Bio-fertilizers, compost units, green manure
Marketing & Branding	Packaging, branding, and transport
Certification & Testing	PGS certification, residue analysis
Training & Capacity Building	Farmer training, exposure visits, workshops

- Encourages **direct farmer-to-consumer sales** through the **Jaivik Kheti Portal**.
- Promotes **domestic and international branding** of organic products.
- Builds **consumer trust** in Indian organic produce.

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6. Implementation Mechanism

1. **Regional Councils (RCs):**
    - Farmers approach RCs for enrollment and certification guidance.

- RCs consolidate proposals into an **Annual Action Plan (AAP)**.

2. **Approval & Funding:**
    - AAP submitted to **Ministry of Agriculture** for approval.
    - **Central Government** allocates funds to **State Governments**.
    - **States → RCs → Farmers** via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.
3. **Transparency:**
    - Ensures timely, corruption-free fund transfer and accountability.

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7. Certification Systems under PKVY

PKVY promotes two parallel certification mechanisms:

(a) NPOP (National Programme for Organic Production)

- **Type:** Third-party certification.
- **For:** International export markets.
- **Ensures:** Compliance with global organic standards for production, processing, and trade.

(b) PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee System)

- **Type:** Community-based certification.
- **For:** Domestic markets.
- **Involves:** Peer inspections, collective verification by farmer groups.
- **Ideal for:** Small and marginal farmers due to low cost and local accountability.

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8. Large Area Certification (LAC) Scheme

- **Launched:** 2020–21 (under PKVY).
- **Purpose:** Fast-track organic certification in areas *never exposed to chemical farming* (tribal belts, islands, forest fringes).
- **Key Features:**
    - Reduces **conversion time** from 2–3 years to **a few months**.

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- **Certifies large, contiguous areas** under organic farming.
- Enhances **income**, **market access**, and **export competitiveness**.

- **Example:** Sikkim fully certified as an organic state under LAC.

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9. Digital Support: Jaivik Kheti Portal

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Agriculture.
- **Purpose:** Connects farmers directly to consumers and markets.
- **Functions:**
  - Enables **direct sale** of organic produce.
  - Lists **buyers, suppliers, certifiers, and farmers**.
  - Promotes **transparency** and **traceability** in organic supply chains.

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10. Impact on North-East India

State/Region	Area Covered (ha)	Farmers Benefitted	**Funds Allocated (Approx.)	Remarks
Assam	4,400	9,740	₹3,013 crore	Significant organic shift under PKVY
Sikkim	63,000	—	₹1,849 crore	Fully organic state (LAC model)
Other NE States (Arunachal, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya)	4,140	—	₹2,337 crore	Expanding organic base in tribal areas

Key Takeaway:

- The North-East region, due to low chemical use, is ideal for organic expansion.
- Boosted **employment**, **income**, and **eco-tourism potential**.

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11. Overall Outcomes and Significance

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- **Environmental:** Reduction in soil and water contamination.
- **Economic:** Better price realization through organic branding.
- **Social:** Strengthened farmer communities through collective farming.
- **Technological:** Integration with digital platforms and traceable certifications.
- **Sustainability:** Aligns with India's commitment to **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)** and **SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption & Production)**.

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12. Challenges and Way Forward

Challenges	Way Forward
Lack of awareness among small farmers	More training and demonstration projects
Certification costs	Expand subsidized PGS certification
Market access issues	Strengthen Jaivik Kheti Portal and FPO networks
Limited post-harvest infrastructure	Create organic processing zones
Low yield during transition phase	Introduce support price or insurance mechanisms

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13. Conclusion

The **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** has emerged as a cornerstone of India's **organic farming revolution**. By integrating traditional wisdom with modern certification systems, PKVY not only enhances **farmers' income** but also ensures **long-term ecological sustainability**. As India moves toward becoming a **global leader in organic agriculture**, schemes like PKVY serve as a model of **sustainable rural transformation**.

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