

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Activity in 2016-2017 in Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India

Under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, has proposed a new scheme for educating farmers for Organic Farming/Natural Farming & Cow Based Economy. This scheme is as follows.

Name of Scheme: ***"Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojna"*** for Farmers

Rationale: **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** is launched by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India, New Delhi with an aim to connect institutions of Higher Education with local communities to address the development challenges through appropriate technologies. **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India. Their mission is conceptualised as a movement to enable processes that connect institutes of higher education with local communities to address the development changes of rural India through participatory processes and appropriate technologies for accelerating sustainable growth. It also aims to create a virtuous cycle between the society and an inclusive university system by providing knowledge and practices for emerging professions and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and private sectors. **Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay** encouraged self-reliance in food grains. He emphasised decentralisation of the economy to empower local communities to make economic and developmental choices. He created a model for rural development based on self-reliance to boost economic prosperity in several hundred villages. Keeping this in view it is felt that it is befitting to start a new scheme to realize the dream of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi ji and to channelize the talent of the youth to ensure better development of Rural India ***"Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojna"*** under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan activities of Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare which are carried out by Education Division of ICAR with the following objectives:

Objectives:

1. To build skilled Human Resource at village level relevant to national needs towards organic farming and sustainable agriculture.
2. Provide rural India with professional support in the field of Organic Farming/Natural Farming/Rural Economy/Sustainable Agriculture.
3. To extend other activities of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan at village level through these established centres.

During 2015-2016 Education division of ICAR carried out Unnat Bharat Abhiyan activities by organizing National Workshops at IISR, Lucknow, Kanerimath Kohlapur, CIPET, Amritsar, CSWRI, Avikanagar and IGFRI, Jhansi. In each workshop more than

250 devoted farmers participated and took the benefits of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan activities. In addition 130 training programmes were trained in Natural Farming/Organic Farming/Cow Based Economy. It has made a great impact at National level and the farmers have greatly been benefited and are coming forward to organize many more such events.

Action Plan: It is intended

- To identify promising village level trainers for establishing training centres for imparting knowledge related to Organic Farming/Natural Farming/Rural Economy/Sustainable Agriculture. It is also aimed to organise different training programmes at the village level through established training centres in different fields.
- It is proposed to establish 100 training centres across the country based on the involvement of trainers in various UBA activities conducted by the ICAR/MHRD and making them responsible to organize at least 5 training programmes (30 participants/training) in a year.
- Training Centres will be selected on the basis of farmers who have already attended training course conducted under UBA during 2015-16 or earlier or having working/handling of natural farming in their own land plus must know all basics, fundamental, theory and practices of natural farming.
- Five Field Co-ordinators will be appointed to supervise the training programmes and suggest further improvements/modifications in the training programmes to suit the local needs.

The Course outline for the training programme is as under:

Course outline of Training

First Day: The Principles of Organic Agriculture and field visit. Organic Management-An Integrated Approach Management Principles.

Second Day: Developing organic farm, Conversion of conventional to organic cultivation system, Multiple cropping and crop rotation, Seed/ Planting material Treatment, Manuring and soil enrichment, Use of Bio-fertilizers and microbial cultures, Some important formulations for soil enrichment, Management of Temperature, Protection to all life forms, Pest management.

Third Day: Other forms of Organic Management and Inputs, Biodynamic Agriculture, Rishi Krishi, Panchgavya Krishi, Natural farming, Natueco Farming, Homa Farming, Effective Microorganisms Technology.

Fourth Day: Productivity enhancement while sustaining soil and ecosystem health through organic farming, Demonstration of Results of trials, Case studies related to Organic Farming/Natural Farming.

Fifth Day: Comparing Safety and Quality of Food in Conventional and Organic Farming, Organic Certification (Purpose of certification, certification process, Certification system in India), National Programme on Organic Production, National Standards for Organic Production, Grower Group Certification System, Conditions for Products used in fertilization and soil conditioning in organic farming, Conditions for Products used in pest and disease control and Accredited Inspection and Certification agencies, etc.

Appointment of Field Coordinators: It is also proposed that there will be **Five Field Coordinators** who will monitor training programmes zone-wise viz: North, South, East, West and Centre.

Selection of Training Centres

Proposals will be invited by Education Division from SAUs to indicate the training centres at the village level with the following minimal requirements:

Training Centres should have a minimum requirement of the following.

- i) Class rooms facilities
- ii) Hostel facilities
- iii) Boarding and lodging facilities
- iv) Their own field for demonstration

Funds will be transferred to the training centres through SAUs under which distinct training centre is located and the jurisdiction of SAUs. SAUs are responsible for setting the accounts with ICAR and these SAUs in turn will monitor the activities of Training Centres and Field Coordinators. The final selection of training centres will be made by the Education Division. Education Division will transfer funds to respective SAUs/ Private KVKs.

Selection of Field Coordinators: Field Coordinators will be selected by the Education Division of ICARE through advertising in the ICAR web site with the following guidelines for selection:

Guidelines for Field Coordinators

1. A minimum of diploma in any discipline with working knowledge of Hindi and English.
2. At least 10 years of working experience in agricultural and environment management or related field like organic farming, natural farming, cow based

economy, biogas or anything related to sustainable agriculture and organic farming activities.

3. Extensive experience in organizing farmers events like Kisan-Gosthi, Kisan Mela, farmers training etc.
4. Good communication skills.
4. Good multicultural and interpersonal skill.
5. Good reporting skills and field demonstration abilities.
6. Experience in liaisoning with government and non-government agencies.
7. Experience in organizing social events.

Selected Field Coordinators will be placed in 5 different SAUs across the country to monitor the activities of training Centres region wise. Field Coordinators will draw the salary, TA/DA from the respective Universities and the funds from Education Division will be transferred to respective SAUs for this purpose.

It is proposed to organise one National Workshop for Master Trainers/heads of training centres by the Education division of ICAR.

Outcome of the scheme: The proposed scheme certainly would bring transformational changes in rural economy apart from creating awareness of environmental issues especially with respect to soil health, sustainability and productivity. It will also empower rural community to rejuvenate the tradition of natural farming and organic farming and sustain the traditional agriculture. This is step forward for increasing production, productivity and profitability to farmers coupled with quality and safe foods.