



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Project (Pocra) is a boon for farmers

Raju Bhausahab Bade,

Research Student,

Shri Shivaji Science and Arts College, Chikhli, Dist. Buldhana (MS)

Abstract:

This research paper explores the critical role of the agriculture sector in Maharashtra, India, where it significantly influences the state's economy and sustains a majority of the population. With 82.47% of the cultivated land reliant on rain-fed dry land, the paper highlights the challenges faced by small and marginal farmers, particularly in accessing capital and essential services. The impact of climate change on agriculture in the region is addressed through the Climate Change Action Plan initiated by the Government of Maharashtra, aimed at integrating climate resilience into the state's development strategies. The World Bank's Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Project, launched in 2018, is examined as a climate-friendly initiative designed to help farmers adapt to climate-related challenges. The project encompasses financial assistance, capacity building, and agricultural advisory services, targeting economic upliftment and sustainability in farming practices. Through an analysis of the project's implementation phases and its overarching objectives, this paper underscores the necessity of adaptive strategies in agriculture to ensure long-term viability and improved livelihoods for farmers in Maharashtra.

Key words: PoCRA, Climate Change, Agriculture Scheme, financial assistance

Introduction:

India is an agricultural country and the agriculture sector has an important place in the Indian economy. The agriculture sector accounts for 18.4 per cent of the country's GDP and about 54 per cent of the total population is dependent on the agriculture sector. Of the 307.58 lakh hectares of land in Maharashtra state, the gross area under cultivation is 232.68 lakh hectares, of which about 82.47 per cent falls in the rain-fed dry land, so most of the state's agriculture is dependent on dry management. The average land holding in the state is 1.44 ha. It has a high proportion of small and marginal land holders. Most farmers do not have enough capital to make the necessary investments in agriculture and are deprived of basic amenities.

In 2008, the Government of India issued the National Action Plan (NAPCC) on Climate Change and directed all states to develop state action plans on climate change. In 2010, the Government of Maharashtra appointed the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) to conduct climate change studies. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has 'Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Strategies for Maharashtra'. The study was conducted under this heading and the report was submitted. Whose broader objective is to "address the urgent need to include climate change concerns in the state's overall development strategy, thus enabling it to build long-term climate resilience and adapt to the potential for risk posed by climate change". Accordingly, the Government of Maharashtra's comprehensive development strategy aims to address the potential for long-term adverse effects to enabling it to adapt to the potential for risk arising from climate change. The plan has been prepared and suggests measures to deal with the impact on agriculture and water sectors.

The implementation of the World Bank-funded Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project has started from May 18, 2018 and the duration of the project has been fixed for six years from 2018 to 2024. The total cost of the project is Rs 4,000 crore, of which the World Bank's share is Rs 2,800 crore (70%) and the state government's share is Rs 1,200 crore (30%). Phase 1 of the project has been implemented in 5,220 villages in 16 districts of Marathwada, Vidarbha and North Maharashtra and Phase 2 of the project has been approved to be implemented in 6,959 villages in 21 districts of the state.

The objective of the project is to enable farmers in selected districts of Maharashtra to adapt to the conditions arising out of climate change and help make farming business affordable. The main objective is to raise the economic status of farmers as well as to enhance social and economic upliftment. The project covers matters of personal benefit as well as financial assistance to farmer producer companies, farmer groups, self-help groups, soil and water conservation works, agricultural technology workshop, capacity building, agro-weather advisory service centers, etc. The selected village for approval of beneficiary selection is provided through the village Gram Sanjeevani Samiti constituted by the respective Gram Panchayat. Application for availing the benefit of the project and transfer of financial assistance after completion of the works is done through the POCRA-DBT portal.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the components to be implemented under Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project.
2. To study the quantum of subsidy given to matters of personal benefit as well as community benefit being given under Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project.
3. To explore the role of farmers in the social and economic development of Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project.

Importance of the project:

The Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Project aims to enable farmers in selected districts of Maharashtra to adapt to the climate change situation and to help them make farming cost-effective. The main objective is to raise the economic status of farmers and enhance social and economic upliftment.

The Government of Maharashtra has received financial support from the World Bank for implementing the "Project on Climate Resilient Agriculture" to address the scarcity-like situation and drought-related insecurity in the agriculture sector. Using this fund, the Government of Maharashtra has implemented the "Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Project" for a period of six years from 2018 to 2024. The Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Project is a highly decentralized community demand and operation project. The planning process for the project begins at the village level. Through various ideas, plans of village level micro planning, small watershed are being developed on a participatory basis and micro planning watershed and small watershed are being developed. The micro-watershed plan includes five to eight villages in the cluster.

The Climate Agriculture Adaptation Project (POCRA) is the first of its kind in the agriculture sector in India. The project follows a unique triple strategy to achieve the twin objectives of increasing climate resilience and increasing the agricultural productivity of small holders. The first strategy is to increase water security at the agricultural level – adoption of latest technologies to increase the efficiency of water use in agriculture. Enhancing surface water storage capacity, removing ground water recharge and water availability on land and reducing risks associated with changes in inter-seasonal climate scenarios. Improving soil - Adopting good agricultural practices to improve soil fertility, managing soil nutrients and promoting soil carbon segregation. Increasing agricultural productivity and crop diversity - Climate-friendly seed varieties, short maturity, To integrate farmers with the potential for income security by adopting drought resistant, salt tolerant and market-oriented crops in the respective value chains.

Scope and area of the project:

Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project is a 406 village in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district, 363 villages in Jalna district, 391 villages in Beed district, 287 villages in Dharashiv district, 283 villages in Latur district, 284 villages in Nanded district, 275 villages in Parbhani district, 240 villages in Hingoli district of Marathwada division, 532 villages in Amravati district, 442 villages in Buldhana district. 498 villages in Akola district, 149 villages in Washim district, 309 villages in Yavatmal district, 125 villages in Wardha district of Vidarbha division and 460 villages in Jalgaon district of north Maharashtra, 141 villages in Nashik (Malegaon) district have been selected for the project. These selected project villages include a total of 932 villages in kharpan belt. It has been approved second phase to be implemented in 6,959 villages in 21 districts of the state.

Components to be implemented from the project:

The project covers matters of personal benefit as well as financing to farmer producer companies, farmer groups, self-help groups, soil and water conservation works, agricultural schools, capacity building, agro-weather advisory service center, etc.

Promoting climate-friendly agricultural practices This components includes two components of village group regulation in a participatory manner and agricultural practices in a participatory manner. This component includes planning at the group level and organizing the farming community in collaboration with krishi mitras and krishi tai. Sub-components such as planting trees and orchards, managing saline and deciduous soils, protected agriculture, integrated farming practices, improving soil health, etc. are being included to increase the amount of carbon in the soil.

Climate-friendly post-harvest management and strengthening of value chain include promotion of farmer producer companies, strengthening emerging value chain for climate friendly commodities, improving seed supply chain performance. Promotion of farmer producer companies These sub-components include supporting existing FIG/FPO/FPCs, creation of agricultural equipment service centers on lease, Emerging Value for Climate Friendly Varieties Strengthening the Chain The component includes supporting business proposals evaluated by financial institutions/commercial banks, improving the performance of the seed supply chain, seed production of foundation and certified seeds of climate friendly varieties, development of seed processing and storage facilities etc.

The components of institutional development, service delivery and knowledge include updating critical research extension plans (SREPs) aligned with climate-friendly agriculture, launching agro-meteorological consulting services, preparing contingency crop plans, creating long-term climate change models, preparing risk analysis frameworks/plans, analytical studies on climate adaptation, Setting up of Maharashtra Climate Innovation Centre/New Ventures Centre, agricultural innovation demonstrations, strategic partnerships with other institutions, analysis and training of training requirements in capacity building (Project Officers, Farmer Friends and VCRMCs, Farmers, Exposure Visits etc.)The sub-components of information - education - communication etc. are being included in the component of organizational development, service delivery and knowledge.

Beneficiary selection:

Village Krishi Sanjeevani Samiti is formed in every village to give the benefit of Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project. The committee is functioning as the development or project committee of the gram panchayat.

Conclusion:

1. With the implementation of Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Project, farmers in 5220 villages in 16 districts of Marathwada, Vidarbha and North Maharashtra have been included in the integrated project.
2. Since all the benefits under the project are being approved by the Gram Krishi Sanjivani Samiti, it has been seen that maximum of the eligible farmers have been given benefits of various components.
3. The climate-based agricultural school incentive scheme helped the farmers of the village access new technologies. And farmers are able to change cropping patterns with changing climates.

4. Since all the financial benefits of the project are being provided through the PoCRA-DBT portal, the grant disbursement seems to have been convenient as the grant amount is deposited in the Aadhaar link bank account of the beneficiary farmers.
5. The beneficiary farmers under the project have been found to have higher subsidy rates than other farmers.

Recommendations:

1. Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project (PoCRA) should be extended to all other districts of the state and the project should be implemented in all the villages of the district.
2. In order to reach out to all the farmers about the project, the media, gramsabhas, gram panchayats, agriculture department officials and employees should make efforts to promote and disseminate the project and make efforts to make the common farmer aware of the project.
3. Farmers need to be guided on the terms and conditions of the available components and schemes in the project. A large number of farmers find it difficulties to take advantage of the individual benefits components of the project. These problems and problems need to be addressed by the project management cell.
4. There are a large number of terms and conditions for individual benefit components to be implemented in the work area of the project. If the terms and conditions are reduced, more and more beneficiaries will be able to avail the benefits.
5. The distribution of financial benefits to the individual benefit component in the project's work area should be timely, and the amount of economic benefit should be increased due to the small amount of economic benefits received.
6. Political and other interference at the village level should be minimized so that the benefit of the project will be given to the eligible beneficiary farmers.
7. In order to reduce the expenditure of farmers on the agricultural sector, guidance should be provided through agricultural school training programs and information on organic farming, zero-cultivation technology should be provided.
8. To increase the income of farmers, the emphasis should be on agri-complementary business by providing training in agro-allied businesses and providing financial assistance to agro-allied businesses.
9. Natural disasters such as drought, heavy rains and hailstorms have a severe impact on the agriculture sector. For this, farmers need to be guided and empowered.
10. In the selected villages of the project, it is necessary to bring new technologies of agricultural universities and krishi vigyan kendras to the farmers.
11. Soil and water testing should be done on the land of farmers in the selected villages of the project so that the farmers get information about which crops can be taken in that land. This soil and water test should be done free of cost or at a low cost.

12. Due to the overuse of chemical fertilizers, the soil is becoming unproductive. To address this problem, it is necessary to encourage farmers to use dung manure vermicompost compost etc. in the project scope through various means.
13. The financing for the agricultural farm mechanization component should be increased.
14. Farmers should get government assistance within the stipulated time in times of natural calamities.

9) References:

1. The Project Director, Project on Climate Resilient Agriculture (PoCRA), Government of Maharashtra
2. Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Maharashtra Government, G. R. No. HAPR -0716/P. No. 82 dated 17th January,2017,
3. The Project Director, Project on Climate Resilient Agriculture (PoCRA), Government of Maharashtra
4. <https://mahapocra.gov.in/docs/PoCRA-DigitizingAgricultureForClimateResilience.pdf>

