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# SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (SMAM)

## Promoting Modernization and Technological Advancements in Indian Agriculture

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### WHAT IS SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (SMAM)?

The *Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)* is a government initiative launched in 2014 under the *National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET)*. Its primary objective is to promote the adoption of modern agricultural machinery and technologies to increase productivity, reduce labour dependency, and enhance overall farm efficiency.

SMAM focuses on supporting agricultural mechanization, especially in regions with low mechanization levels. By encouraging farmers to use advanced equipment, the scheme aims to reduce production costs, enhance farm productivity, and ensure sustainable farming practices. Special emphasis is placed on benefiting small and marginal farmers, as well as rain-fed areas, by improving critical farming operations such as land preparation, sowing, irrigation, harvesting, and post-harvest processing.

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### OBJECTIVES OF SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (SMAM)

1. **Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization:**
  - Encourage the use of modern machinery for operations such as sowing, plant protection, irrigation, and harvesting to improve efficiency and reduce labour dependency.
2. **Improving Productivity and Efficiency:**
  - Enhance agricultural productivity by enabling faster operations and optimal resource utilization through mechanized tools and technologies.
3. **Making Farming Cost-Effective:**
  - Reduce production costs and improve yields to enhance the profitability and economic viability of farming.
4. **Sustainability in Agriculture:**
  - Foster sustainable farming practices by promoting equipment that minimizes environmental impact, conserves water, and improves soil health.
5. **Reduction in Post-Harvest Losses:**
  - Ensure the use of harvesting machinery and processing tools to minimize post-harvest losses and maintain produce quality.
6. **Promoting Custom Hiring centers:**
  - Establish custom hiring centers where farmers can rent advanced machinery, particularly benefiting those who cannot afford expensive equipment.

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## **KEY FEATURES OF SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (SMAM)**

1. **Promotion of Mechanized Equipment:**
    - Supports a wide range of machinery, including tractors, plows, seed drills, harvesters, sprayers, water pumps, and combine harvesters.
  2. **Financial Assistance and Subsidies:**
    - Provides subsidies ranging from 25% to 50% of the machinery cost, depending on the type of equipment and location of the applicant.
  3. **Custom Hiring Centres:**
    - Facilitates the establishment of rental canterers offering affordable access to modern machinery for small and marginal farmers.
  4. **Focus on North-Eastern States:**
    - Allocates higher subsidies and special focus to promote mechanization in under-mechanized regions like the North-East and rain-fed areas.
  5. **Training and Capacity Building:**
    - Offers training and demonstrations on operating, maintaining, and managing machinery to ensure effective usage by farmers.
  6. **Private Sector Involvement:**
    - Encourages private sector participation in manufacturing, distributing agricultural machinery, and setting up custom hiring canterers.
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## **BENEFITS OF SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (SMAM)**

1. **Improved Productivity:**
  - Modern machinery increases operational efficiency, leading to higher yields and reduced dependency on manual labour.
2. **Cost-Effective Farming:**
  - Mechanization lowers labour costs and optimizes resource use, making farming more financially viable.
3. **Time-Saving:**
  - Speeds up land preparation, sowing, irrigation, and harvesting, enabling faster crop cycles and better productivity.
4. **Reduction in Post-Harvest Losses:**

- Advanced harvesting and processing tools minimize losses, ensuring better marketable produce quality.
  - 5. **Sustainability:**
    - Promotes resource conservation and enhances soil health through sustainable farming practices.
  - 6. **Increased Income:**
    - Reduces costs and increases efficiency, leading to higher profitability for farmers.
  - 7. **Inclusive Growth:**
    - Ensures equitable access to modern equipment for small and marginal farmers, fostering inclusive agricultural development.
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## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (SMAM)**

The scheme is open to the following stakeholders:

1. **Farmers:**
    - Individual farmers, groups, and cooperatives can apply for assistance to purchase machinery.
  2. **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs):**
    - Eligible for financial support to set up custom hiring canters or purchase shared-use machinery.
  3. **Agri-Entrepreneurs and NGOs:**
    - Can receive assistance for establishing custom hiring canters or providing mechanization services.
  4. **State and Local Agencies:**
    - State governments, agricultural universities, and research institutions can implement mechanization projects and train farmers.
  5. **Private Companies:**
    - Encouraged to participate in manufacturing, distributing machinery, and establishing rental centres.
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## **STEPS TO APPLY FOR SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (SMAM)**

1. **Visit the Official Website or Local Agriculture Department:**
  - Gather details about the scheme, machinery options, and subsidy guidelines from the Ministry of Agriculture or State Agricultural Department.
2. **Submit the Application:**
  - Eligible stakeholders should submit their application for machinery purchase or rental canter establishment.
3. **Verify Eligibility:**
  - Authorities will verify eligibility based on landholding, type of machinery requested, and intended usage.
4. **Complete Documentation:**
  - Submit necessary documents such as Aadhaar card, land ownership proof, bank details, and project proposals.
5. **Subsidy Approval and Disbursement:**
  - Approved subsidies are transferred directly to the applicant's bank account or vendor for machinery purchase.

**6. Training and Demonstrations:**

- Applicants are trained on the proper use and maintenance of the machinery.

**7. Implementation and Monitoring:**

- Farmers can purchase and use the machinery, with authorities conducting follow-ups to monitor scheme effectiveness.

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**CONCLUSION**

The *Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)* represents a pivotal step toward modernizing Indian agriculture by promoting advanced technologies. By offering subsidies, establishing custom hiring canners, and fostering accessibility, SMAM empowers farmers to reduce costs, enhance efficiency, and adopt sustainable practices. The scheme's special focus on small and marginal farmers ensures inclusive growth, enabling them to improve productivity and profitability while reducing labour dependency.