
NATIONAL HORTICULTURE MISSION (NHM)

Transforming Horticulture for a Greener Future

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURE MISSION (NHM)?

The *National Horticulture Mission (NHM)* is a flagship initiative launched by the Government of India to promote the cultivation and development of horticultural crops such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, and medicinal plants. The mission was established with the goal of increasing the production and productivity of horticultural crops while improving the income of farmers involved in the sector. It aims to ensure **sustainable growth*, ***improved rural livelihoods*, and **enhanced food security*.

The mission focuses on providing financial, technical, and infrastructural support to farmers, helping them adopt modern farming techniques, improve productivity, and reduce losses.

OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURE MISSION (NHM)

The primary objectives of the *National Horticulture Mission* are:

1. *Increase Horticultural Production*: The mission aims to *boost the production* of horticultural crops by encouraging farmers to adopt **modern farming practices*, which include the use of ***high-yielding varieties*, ***quality seeds*, and **advanced irrigation techniques*.
 2. *Promote High-Value Crops*: NHM encourages the cultivation of high-value crops like **flowers*, ***fruits*, and **vegetables* for domestic consumption and export.
 3. *Infrastructure Development*: The mission focuses on developing the necessary *infrastructure* such as **cold storage facilities*, ***packaging units*, and **market linkages* to reduce post-harvest losses.
 4. *Enhance Farmers' Income*: By improving productivity, reducing losses, and promoting better market access, the mission strives to *increase the income* of farmers involved in horticulture.
 5. *Improve Export Opportunities*: NHM aims to enhance the *global competitiveness* of India's horticultural sector by improving the quality of crops, packaging, and export infrastructure.
-

KEY COMPONENTS OF NHM

The National Horticulture Mission has several key components that focus on improving various aspects of horticultural development:

1. Area Expansion for Horticultural Crops

- *Area expansion* involves promoting the cultivation of horticultural crops through the adoption of new land, including barren and uncultivable land. The scheme helps in converting fallow lands into productive farming areas.

2. Improvement of Production Technologies

- NHM supports the **adoption* of modern horticultural technologies, such as ***drip irrigation*, ***high-density planting*, ***tissue culture*, and **greenhouses*, to improve crop yield and quality.

3. Post-Harvest Management

- The mission emphasizes *post-harvest management* to reduce losses through **cold storage facilities*, ***packaging*, and **processing units*, ensuring that produce remains fresh and saleable for longer periods.

4. Market Linkages and Export Promotion

- NHM focuses on improving *market linkages* and facilitating access to *domestic and international markets* for horticultural produce. It encourages farmers to export high-quality products through better packing and processing.

5. Training and Capacity Building

- Farmers and workers receive training on modern techniques and best practices in *horticulture* through **capacity-building programs*, ***workshops*, and **field demonstrations* organized by NHM.

BENEFITS OF THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURE MISSION (NHM)

- Increased Productivity and Income:*
 - By promoting modern technologies, high-yielding varieties, and improved farm management practices, NHM helps farmers *increase productivity*, leading to better profits.
- Reduction in Post-Harvest Losses:*
 - NHM addresses post-harvest challenges by supporting **cold storage facilities*, ***processing plants*, and **packaging units*, which help in reducing wastage and increasing shelf life.
- Access to Modern Technology:*
 - The mission facilitates the adoption of **modern farming technologies*, including ***drip irrigation*, ***greenhouses*, and **tissue culture*, which help improve crop quality and yield.
- Boost to Export Potential:*
 - NHM helps improve the **quality* of horticultural produce, making it more competitive in the global market. This leads to greater **export opportunities* for Indian horticultural products.
- Sustainable Farming Practices:*
 - NHM promotes *sustainable agricultural practices*, including organic farming and water-efficient techniques, which ensures environmental sustainability and long-term benefits for farmers.
- Improved Market Access:*
 - Through better *market linkages*, farmers can gain direct access to domestic and international markets, ensuring they receive fair prices for their produce.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR NHM

Farmers and horticultural producers who wish to avail of benefits under the *National Horticulture Mission (NHM)* must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. *Indian Farmers*: The applicant must be an *Indian farmer* or a farmer's cooperative or group engaged in the cultivation of horticultural crops.
 2. *Land Ownership or Lease*: The farmer must have *ownership or leasehold rights* over the land for which the support is being requested.
 3. *Horticultural Activity*: The scheme is applicable to farmers engaged in the cultivation of *fruits, **vegetables, **flowers, **spices, and **medicinal plants*.
 4. *Willingness to Adopt Modern Practices*: Farmers must demonstrate the *willingness to adopt modern technologies* such as *drip irrigation, **high-density planting, and *greenhouses.
 5. *Cooperative and Self-Help Groups*: In addition to individual farmers, the mission also supports *cooperatives and self-help groups* engaged in horticultural activities.
-

STEPS TO APPLY FOR NHM

Farmers and horticulturists who are interested in availing benefits under the *National Horticulture Mission* can follow these steps:

1. Visit the Official NHM Website

- Visit the *official National Horticulture Mission website* or the agriculture department's portal of your respective state for more information about the available schemes and guidelines.

2. Farmer Registration

- Farmers must *register themselves* on the website by providing essential details such as *Aadhaar card, **landholding documents, **bank details, and *contact information.

3. Project Proposal Submission

- If applying for financial assistance under any of the NHM schemes (like irrigation systems, high-density planting, or cold storage), farmers must *submit a detailed project proposal* along with the necessary documents.

4. Required Documents

- The following documents are generally required for application:
 - *Proof of land ownership* (Title deed or lease agreement)
 - *Aadhaar card*
 - *Bank account details*
 - *Photographs of the land or farm*
 - *Proof of horticultural activity* (if applicable)

5. Approval and Assistance

- After the application is reviewed and approved by the respective state or national authorities, farmers will receive *financial assistance, **subsidies, or **technical support* for the proposed horticultural project.

6. Monitoring and Training

- The government will monitor the progress of the implemented projects and provide *ongoing training* and *technical assistance* to ensure the successful adoption of modern horticultural techniques.

CONCLUSION

The *National Horticulture Mission (NHM)* has proven to be an essential initiative in the growth and development of India's horticultural sector. By providing financial assistance, promoting modern technologies, and ensuring better market linkages, NHM has significantly improved the productivity and profitability of farmers engaged in horticulture.

Through its focus on sustainable farming practices, post-harvest management, and export promotion, NHM contributes to *food security, **economic growth, and the **livelihood enhancement* of farmers across India.
