PM KUSUM
Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan

A New Green Revolution...
हमारे किसान अन्नदाता है, ऊर्जादाता बनें।

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi
PM’s VISION for Farmers Harvesting Solar Energy

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Our farmer is so capable today, so resourceful that today he is helping the country with not one, but two types of plants. One plant is that of traditional farming by which we all get food. But now our farmers are also installing other types of plants, so that electricity also reaches their homes. The first plant, which is traditional farming, is planted by our farmer on such land which is fertile. But the other type of plant is the solar energy plant, which will also be installed on such lands which are not fertile, or not good in terms of growing crops. That is, the farmer’s land where the crops cannot be grown will also be used. It will also increase the income of the farmer.

Solar pumps of lakhs of farmers across the country are also being connected to the grid. The electricity generated from this will be used by the farmers for their irrigation and they will be able to sell the surplus power.
Government of India has taken various policy measures to fulfil its commitment made in Paris Climate Agreement in 2015 to have 40% of installed power generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

To provide energy and water security to farmers and enhance their income, de-dieselise the farm sector, and reduce environmental pollution, the Government of India approved PM-KUSUM on 19.2.2019. The approved scheme comprised of three components:

**Component-A:** Addition of 10,000 MW of solar capacity through installation of small solar power plants of capacity upto 2 MW
**Component-B:** Installation of 20 lakh standalone solar powered agricultural pumps

**Component-C:** Solarisation of 15 lakh existing Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps

PM-KUSUM scheme is one of largest initiatives of the world to provide clean energy to more than 35 lakhs farmers by solarising their agriculture pump under component B and C.

The scheme also has direct employment generation potential. As per available studies, around 24.50 job-years are created per MW of small capacity solar solar installation. Therefore, besides increasing self-employment, the scheme is likely to generate employment opportunities equivalent to 7.55 lakh job-years for skilled and unskilled workers.
Harvesting Solar Energy

Component - A: Decentralized Grid Connected Solar Power Plants

Small solar power plants of capacity up to 2MW can be set-up by individual farmers/ cooperatives / panchayats / Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO) on barren/ fallow/marshy/ pasture or cultivable lands. In case, cultivated fields are chosen for setting up solar power plants, Rephrased as “the solar panels are set up above a minimum height so that the farmer can continue to grow crops below solar panels.”

Power generated from solar plants will be purchased by the Distribution companies (DISCOMs) at tariffs determined by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). The plant can be installed by the farmer or he can provide his land on lease to a developer, who will
install the plant. MNRE has issued a model Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and a Model Lease Agreement.

The scheme will open a stable and continuous source of income to the rural land owners for 25 years. It has been estimated that farmers will earn up to Rs. 25000 per acre per year if the plant is installed by a developer/ CPSU on the land leased by the farmer, and up to Rs. 65000 per acre per year if they install the plant themselves by taking loan from the banks.

The RBI has included this Component under priority sector lending and therefore Banks will provide loan at competitive rates and on soft terms. The following financing options are available to farmers:

1. They can take loan directly from bank and pay EMI from the revenue generated from sale of power to DISCOMs. The balance revenue will be the farmer’s income.

2. DISCOMs may take loans on behalf of farmers by signing a tripartite agreement between the farmer, the bank and the DISCOM. The DISCOM will directly pay EMI from revenue generated
from sale of solar power and transfer the balance amount to the farmer’s account.

3. Public or private solar power developer/EPC contractor may also take loans on behalf of farmers by signing quadripartite agreement between the EPC contractor, the farmer, the bank and the DISCOM. The DISCOM will directly pay EMI from revenue generated from sale of solar power and transfer the balance amount to the farmer and the EPC contractor in the agreed ratio.

After the loan is repaid, the total revenue from sale of solar power will constitute the farmer’s income.

The solar power plants will be preferably installed within five km radius of the notified sub-stations in order to avoid high cost of transmission lines and losses. DISCOMs will notify sub-station wise surplus capacity upto which generation from solar power plants can be added. DISCOMs will invite applications from interested beneficiaries. The selected applicants will have to sign PPAs for 25 years with DISCOMs and install the plant as per the provisions of the scheme guidelines and
applicable rules and regulations.

The central Government will provide an incentive of 40 paise/kWh or Rs.6.60 lakhs/MW/year, whichever is lower to the DISCOMs, for buying the power produced under this Component for a period of five years from the Commercial Operation Date of the plant.

Since these power plants will be located closer to the consumers in a decentralized manner, it will ensure availability of reliable day-time power. The solar power purchased under this component will also help the DISCOMs to meet their Renewable Energy Purchase Obligation (RPO) target.
De-dieselisation of Farm Sector

Component-B: Installation of Standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps

Under this Component, individual farmers can replace their existing diesel pumps with solar pumps. The replacement of existing diesel pumps with solar pumps will not only reduce the irrigation costs of around Rs.50,000 per year (for 5HP pump) but also lead to reduction in the pollution. This Component will benefit 20 lakh farmers in off-grid areas, where there is no source of electric power for irrigation. It will also help in increasing the farmer’s income and living conditions.
Group of farmers, such as Water User Associations and community/cluster based irrigation systems will also be covered under this component. However, priority will be given to small and marginal farmers. In order to minimize water usage for irrigation purposes, preference will be given to farmers using micro irrigation systems or covered under micro irrigation schemes. The size of the pump will be selected on the basis of the depth of the water table in the area, the area of the land to be covered under irrigation and the quantity of water required for irrigation.

Under the scheme, Central Financial Assistance (CFA) upto 30% of the Benchmark cost (fixed by MNRE every year) of the standalone solar pump will be provided. The State Government will give a subsidy of 30%; and the remaining 40% will be provided by the farmer. Bank finance up to 30% out of 40% share can be availed by the farmer, so that farmer has to initially pay only 10% of the total cost of the pump. However, in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and A&N Islands, higher CFA upto 50% of the benchmark cost of the standalone solar pump will be provided.
Solar pumps of capacity higher than 7.5 HP can also be installed under the scheme, however, the CFA will be limited to that of 7.5 HP capacity solar pumps.

Since pumps are generally used for limited period, say 150 days in a year, the installed solar capacity can be utilized for remaining days by using Universal Solar Pump Controller (USPC). A USPC enables the farmer to use solar power for other activities like operating his chaff cutter, floor mill, cold storage, drier, battery charger, etc. Installation of USPC is also permitted under this Component.

All solar pumps installed under this Component will be provided with remote monitoring systems so that the functioning of any pump can be monitored on a real time basis.
Selected vendors for installation of solar pump and panel will mandatorily provide repair & maintenance for a period of 5 years from the date of commissioning of the pump. They will have one authorized service centre in each operational district and a helpline in local language in each operational State.
Solarisation of agriculture feeders has been included as variant under Component-C of PM-KUSUM Scheme.

Where feeders have already been separated for agricultural purposes, the feeders may be solarised under the scheme by installing solar power plants of sufficient capacity. Government of India will provide 30% subsidy for solarisation of agricultural feeders. This will lower the cost of capital and cost of power. The farmers will get day-time reliable power for irrigation free of cost or at tariff fixed by their respective state.

The requirement of total annual power for an agriculture feeder will be assessed and a solar power plant of capacity that can cater to the requirement of annual power for that agriculture
feeder can be installed either through DISCOM’s own expenditure (CAPEX mode) or utilising services of independent Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO mode), which will be selected through competitive bidding and on the basis of lowest tariff offered for supply of required solar power for a period of 25 years. This would be much cheaper than present cost of power delivered at distribution sub-station. Therefore, DISCOM will save the amount equal to difference between the two. In CAPEX mode, the annual subsidy being presently provided for supply of electricity to agriculture pumps by
State Government can be used to repay the loan in five to six years after which solar power will be available free of cost and outflow from State Government’s exchequer on account of electricity subsidy for agriculture will come to an end.

For installation of feeder level solar power plant, CFA of 30% (50% in case of NE States, hilly states/UTs and Island UTs) will be provided for CAPEX/RESCO Mode by Central Government and balance will be met through loan from NABARD/PFC/REC.

Where agriculture feeders are not separated, loan for feeder separation may be taken from NABARD or PFC/REC. Further, assistance for feeder separation may be availed taken from the scheme of the Ministry of Power. The savings on account of electricity subsidy on agriculture and the income from the surplus electricity generated by the solar power plant when it is not being used for irrigation can be used to pay off the loan taken for feeder separation.

For water and energy conservation, the DISCOMs shall assess the average power requirement by farmers of an area depending upon pump capacity and various other factors. This power
requirement will be treated as their benchmark consumption. The DISCOMs shall incentivise farmers for consuming power less than benchmark consumption. Such saving of power shall be treated as surplus power injected by farmers and they will be paid by DISCOMs against this saved power at pre-determined tariff.
Expected outcomes

PM-KUSUM will bring along the following reform/improvements:

Day-time reliable power for irrigation

Farmers typically get power for irrigation at night. This not only causes them a great deal of inconvenience but also results in wastage of water as pumps are left running once switched on. Providing solar panels for irrigation under PM-KUSUM would result in day-time reliable power to farmers making irrigation easier for them and also avoiding over-use of water and power.

De-Dieselization Of Farm Sector By Replacing Diesel Pumps With Solar Pumps

Farmers have been demanding replacement of diesel pumps by electric pumps as the former one is costly to run. By replacing diesel pumps
with solar pumps and panels, the farmers will get cheaper and more reliable power for irrigation resulting savings in diesel cost.

Enhancing Farmers’ Income

Enhancing farmers’ income is one of the most important policy priorities of the Government. PM-KUSUM will serve this objective by replacing high cost diesel with less expensive solar energy under Component-B and by enabling farmers to sell surplus solar power at a pre-determined rate to DISCOMS under Component-C.

Reducing The Agriculture Electricity Subsidy Burden On States And Improving The Financial Health Of DISCOMS

The annual electric consumption of over 220 lakh grid connected agriculture pumps installed in
the country is around 213 billion units which is 18% of the total electricity consumption.
Eleven major DISCOMS of the country consume 95% of electricity consumption on agriculture and annually provide over Rs. one lakh crore as electricity subsidy for agriculture. This subsidy comes from the State’s exchequer. The aggregate subsidy amount on account of electricity for the agricultural needs of country has been rising over the years:

![Graph showing electricity subsidy on agriculture]

State Government subsidy on account of free/subsidised electricity for agriculture is not being paid to DISCOMs in a time bound manner. This adversely affects the financial health of DISCOMS, and leaves little room for infrastructural improvements.
PM-KUSUM will help address this issue by reducing subsidy required from states for electricity supply to agriculture. The annual subsidy can be used to repay the loan in five to six years after which solar power will be available free of cost and outflow from State Government’s exchequer on account of electricity subsidy for agriculture will come to an end. The PM-KUSUM will also contribute to reducing transmission losses, further helping the financial health of DISCOMS.

**Curbing Climate Change**

Nearly 80 lakh pumps out of approximately 3 crore agricultural pumps installed in India are diesel pumps. The total diesel consumption of these pumps in a year works out to 5.52 billion litre per annum along with equivalent CO2 emission of 15.4 million tonnes. When implemented fully, PM-KUSUM will lead to reducing carbon emissions by as much as 32 million tonnes of CO2 per annum. Moreover, farmers whose diesel pumps are replaced will be able to work on their farms in a pollution free environment.
Boosting Domestic Solar Manufacturing

India has set for itself very ambitious targets in RE capacity addition, particularly solar power capacity addition. Our immediate aim is to achieve 100 GW of solar power capacity by the year 2022. However, our domestic solar manufacturing capacity is limited, and we mostly depend on imports in this area. This needs to be addressed, particularly because the RE sector is strategic in nature. PM-KUSUM has a mandatory requirement for deploying domestically produced solar cells and modules under Component B and C. This will create demand of 20.8 GW for domestically produced solar cells and modules and thus give a fillip to domestic solar manufacturing.
Reducing The Import Bill

India’s petroleum import bill is large and has been rising:

When implemented fully, PM-KUSUM will lead to an annual reduction in diesel consumption of 1.38 billion litres per annum, thus reducing the import bill on account of petroleum products. Moreover, enhanced domestic solar manufacturing will lead to a further reduction in the outgo on account of imports.

Soft Loan And Benefits In Conjunction With Other Government Schemes

The RBI has included all three components of the Scheme under priority sector lending and
therefore banks will provide loans at competitive rates and on soft terms. Further Component-B and C provide for convergence with the schemes of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DACFW), such as Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) under which loans to group of farmers are available with interest subvention of 3% for community assets used by farmers and PM-Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (KSY) under which micro irrigation systems can be obtained.

**Expansion of The PM-KUSUM Scheme**

The initially approved scheme aim to add solar capacity of 25.75 GW by 2022. The total central financial support provided under the scheme was over Rs. 34,000 Cr.

In the Budget for 2020-21, expansion of the scheme was announced, which was later approved by Government with inclusion of feeder level solarisation as a new variant under Component-C. With the expansion, the targeted solar capacity addition under the scheme would be 30.8 GW as per details given below:
Based on the demand received from the states, sanction has been issued during 2019-20 and 2020-21 for installation of 4909 MW capacity of small solar power plants, installation of 3.59 lakh standalone solar pumps and solarisation of over 10 lakh existing grid connected pumps.

Under Component-A, Rajasthan, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh issued LoA for installation of small solar power plants of around 750 MW capacity to over 650 applicants. Other States are at different stages of implementation including identification of distribution sub-stations, determination of tariff of solar power to be sold to DISCOMS, inviting applications, etc.

Under Component-B, State implementing agencies issued LoA to selected vendors for

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Approved Capacity</th>
<th>Creation of RE Capacity Targeted (GW)</th>
<th>CFA Including Service Charges (Rs. Cr)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Component-A</td>
<td>10 GW</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3,325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Component-B</td>
<td>20 lakh pumps</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>15,912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Component-C</td>
<td>15 lakh pumps</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>14,798</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>34,035</td>
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installation of over 51,000 pumps. Due to COVID-19, progress was slow during the first half of 2020-21 but thereafter installation has gathered pace and, up to 31.03.2020, over 40,000 solar pumps have been reported installed in the fields.

Under Component-C, Rajasthan successfully completed solarisation of three pilot feeders of its three DISCOMs and issued LoA for individual pump solarisation of around 10000 existing grid connected pumps. Other states are at different stages of implementation including identification of feeders, determination of tariff of surplus solar power to be sold to DISCOMS, inviting applications, etc.

Under recently introduced variant of Feeder Level Solarisation, more than 43 lakh pump demands have been received from states against the sanction capacity of 15 lakh pumps. Since demand from other states are awaited, so far, 9.25 lakh pump has been allocated to states.

It is expected that installation of small solar plants, pumps and solarisation of feeder will gather pace during 2021-22.
“Government has provided me a solar pump of capacity 7.5 HP for irrigation under PM-KUSUM Scheme. I am very happy with its result by getting hassle free irrigation during day time and also saving the cost of diesel. I am doing timely irrigation of my land which will increase production. I am thankful to the Government.”

Shri Raghu Nath,

Resident of village Jai Singh wala, Block Sangat, Distt. Bhatinda
“I have installed solar pump on my land under PM-KUSUM Scheme. Now I don’t have to pay the electricity bill as the pump runs on solar energy. The pump runs 8 to 10 hours during the day and it has increased agricultural yield and revenue.”

**Smt. Vijyaben Vinubhai Asodariya,**
Resident of village HadmatiyaKhakhara Distt. Junagarh

“I could not afford the cost of diesel for irrigating my 1.61 ha land, and only raising pulses as rain fed crop on part of land. After installation of solar pump, I am cultivating banana and expecting a good yield. I have also installed a drip irrigation system with the solar pump.”

**Shri G. Arun**
Resident of village Vridhachalam in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu
PM-KUSUM in News

**MNRE issues norms for farmers’ scheme to boost solar energy**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**
New Delhi, July 22

**THE MINISTRY OF New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** on Monday issued guidelines for rollout of the ₹4,423-crore PM-KUSUM scheme, which would encourage farmers to generate solar power in their farms and use the clean energy to replace their diesel water pumps.

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme calls setting up of 25,750-MW solar capacity by 2023 with the total central financial support of ₹34,423 crore.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in February approved the launch of the scheme with the objective of providing financial and water security. The scheme has three components. The Component-A provides for setting up of 10,000 megawatt of decentralised ground/ stiff-mounted grid-connected solar or other renewable energy-based power plants.

The Component-B provides for installation of 17.50 lakh stand-alone solar agriculture pumps, while the Component-C envisages solarisation of 10 lakh grid-connected agriculture pumps.

The guidelines issued on Monday stated that the Component-A and Component-C will be implemented initially on a pilot mode for 1,100 megawatt (MW) capacity and one lakh grid-connected agriculture pumps, respectively, while the Component-B will be implemented in full-fledged manner with total central government support of ₹19,003.65 crore.

After the successful implementation of pilot project of Components A and C, the scheme shall be scaled up with necessary modifications based on the learning from the pilot phase with the total central government support of ₹15,385.5 crore, it added.
First farm-based solar power plant comes up in Rajasthan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR, APRIL 02, 2021 23:31 IST
UPDATED: APRIL 02, 2021 23:31 IST

It has capacity to produce 17 lakh units of electricity per year

The first farm-based solar power plant under the Prime Minister's Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme has come up in Jaipur district’s Kotputli tehsil with a provision for production of 17 lakh units of electricity every year.

The 1 MW project has been established on 3.50 acres of farmland in Kotputli’s Bhaloji village.

The new plant is also the first of the 623 farm-based solar power projects selected by the Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL) for generating 722 MW capacity in the State under the scheme’s first phase.
OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, November 9

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has issued an order for the scale-up and expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Uthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme. The target now is to achieve enhanced solar capacity of 30.8 gigawatt (GW) by 2022 with revised Central financial support of ₹34,035 crore.

In February 2019, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved the launch of the PM-KUSUM scheme. The scheme aims providing financial and water security to farmers. The scheme had aimed to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022. The total Central financial support then supposed to be provided under the scheme was ₹34,422 crore.

The scheme now consists of three components. The first is 10,000 MW of decentralised ground mounted grid connected renewable power plants up to 2 MW. The second is installation of 20 lakh (up from 17.50 lakh) stand-alone solar powered agriculture pumps. The third component is solarisation of 15 lakh (up from 10 lakh) grid-connected solar powered agriculture pumps.