



**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU**  
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**Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**  
**Government of India**



## Budget Series #14

### Major push to Natural Farming in Union Budget 2022-23

(Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)

March 11, 2022

*“Health awareness is increasing in the world today. Awareness about an environment-friendly lifestyle is increasing. More and more people are getting attracted to it. This means that its market is also growing. We can try to capture the market with the help of natural farming and organic farming. Our Krishi Vigyan Kendras and agriculture universities will have to mobilize with full force to take the benefits of natural farming to the masses. Each of our KVKs can adopt a village. Each of our agriculture universities can target to introduce 100 or 500 farmers towards natural farming within the next year.”*

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi<sup>1</sup>

### Major announcements on Natural Farming in Union Budget 2022-23

The Government’s focus towards promoting chemical-free natural farming is clearly emphasized in Union Budget 2022-23.<sup>2</sup>

- The Central Government will promote natural farming throughout the country. Initial focus is on farmer's lands in 5 Km wide corridors along river Ganga.<sup>3</sup>
- Union Finance Minister highlighted that the states will be encouraged to revise syllabus of agricultural universities so as to meet the needs of natural, zero-budget and organic farming, modern-day agriculture, value addition and management.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1800761>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/budget\\_speech.pdf](https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/budget_speech.pdf)

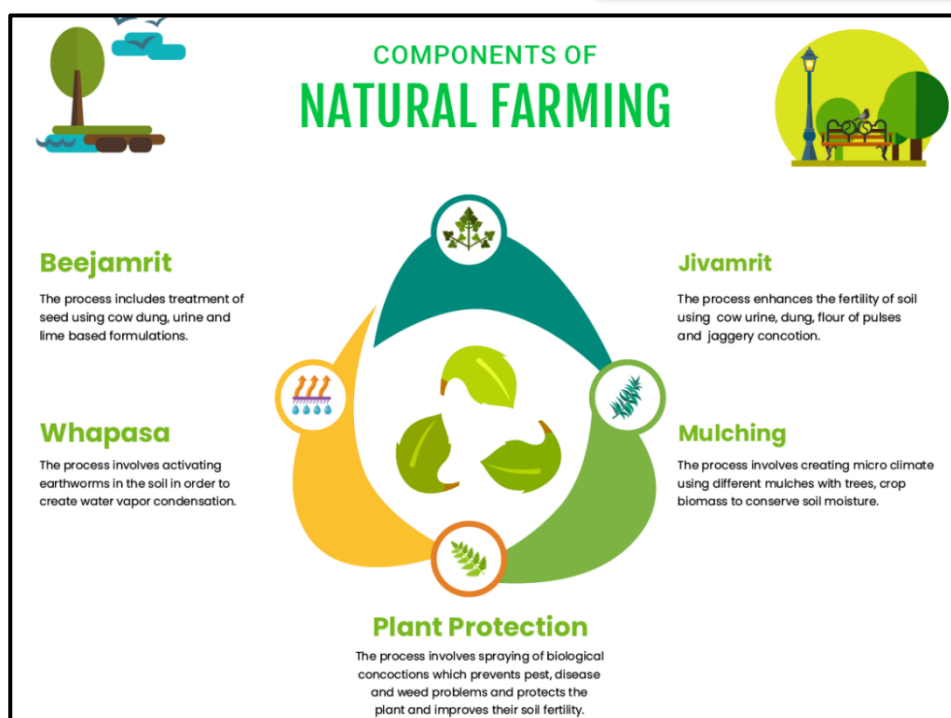
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/union-budget-fy-2022-2023>

<sup>4</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1794146>

- ICAR (Indian Council of Agriculture Research) has already constituted a committee for developing syllabus and curricula of Natural farming at undergraduate and post graduate level.<sup>5</sup>
- **Economic Survey for the year 2021-22 notes that** in order to sustain agricultural production through eco-friendly processes in tune with nature and ensure chemical free produce and preserve soil productivity, the Government is also encouraging farmers to adopt natural farming techniques. Towards this end the government is implementing a dedicated scheme of [Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati Programme](#) (BPKP) <sup>6</sup>

### What is Natural Farming?<sup>7</sup>

Natural Farming can be defined as “chemical- free and livestock-based farming”. Soundly grounded in agro-ecology, it is a diversified farming system that integrates crops, trees and livestock, allowing the optimum use of functional biodiversity. Natural Farming holds the promise of enhancing farmers’ income while delivering many other benefits, such as restoration of soil fertility and environmental health, and mitigating and/or reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Natural Farming builds on natural or ecological processes that exist in or around farms.



<sup>5</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1795460>

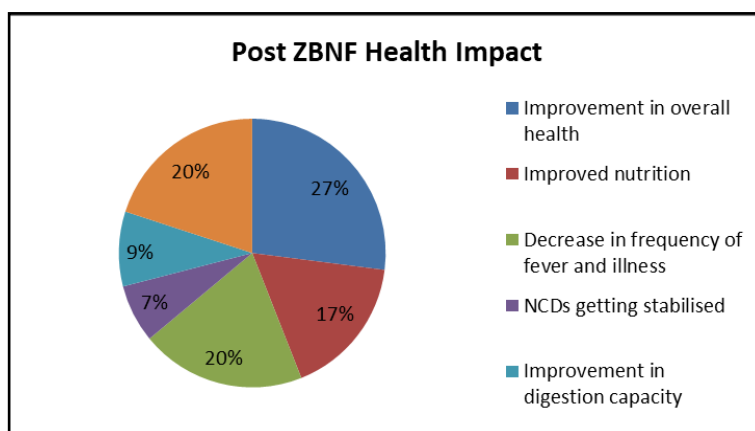
<sup>6</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1793814>

<sup>7</sup> <https://naturalfarming.niti.gov.in/natural-farming/>

For more information on components of Natural Farming, [Click here.](#)

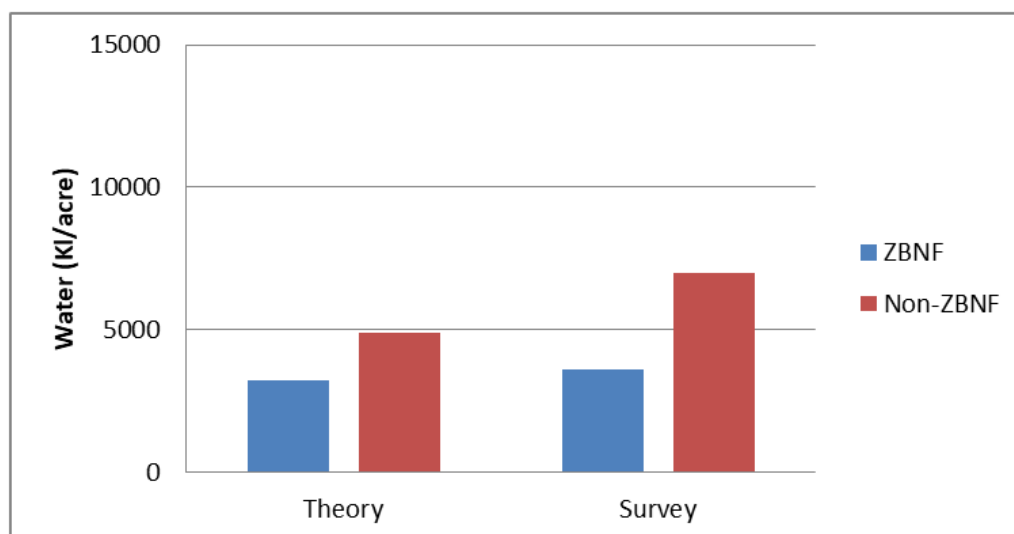
### Benefits of Natural Farming<sup>8</sup>

- **Improves Yield**
- **Minimizes Cost of Production and Increases Farmers' Production**
- **Ensures Better Health**
- **Employment Generation**
- **Eliminates the application of chemical input**



- **Reduces Water Consumption:** The reduction in water consumption by paddy in Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is evident in a study by Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy conducted in Andhra Pradesh on Life Cycle Assessment of NF and Non-NF. It was found that for paddy, NF requires 1,400 thousand liters as per theory and 3,500 thousand liters as per the survey, (average per acre) less water than non-NF.

[Water consumption by paddy for both the practices, considering theoretical and survey data](#)



- ❖ **Rejuvenates Soil Health**
- ❖ **Promotes Livestock Sustainability**
- ❖ **Promotes women's participation and community ownership for scaling up of Natural Farming**
- ❖ **Builds resilience of agricultural systems**

<sup>8</sup> <https://naturalfarming.niti.gov.in/benefits/>

For detailed information on benefits of Natural Farming, [Click here](#).

## Natural Farming in India<sup>9</sup>

Natural Farming has many indigenous forms in India, the most popular one is practised in Andhra Pradesh. The practice has also spread, in other forms, to other states, especially those in southern India. Government of India is promoting Natural Farming through **Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati' (BPKP)** introduced during 2020-21 as a sub scheme of **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** for the promotion of traditional indigenous practices including Natural Farming.<sup>10</sup> BPKP aims at promoting traditional indigenous practices— which are largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with an emphasis on mulching and use of cow dung and urine formulations. It excludes all synthetic chemical inputs. Currently several states are undertaking Natural farming through central programmes like **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)**, PKVY, BPKP and others state specific programmes.

## Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP)<sup>11</sup>

BPKP was introduced in 2020-21 as a sub scheme of **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** for the promotion of traditional indigenous practices including Natural Farming.

- Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for three years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification and residue analysis.<sup>12</sup>
- As on 4 February 2022, under natural farming an area of 409400-hectare has been covered and a total fund of Rs. 4980.99 lakh has been released to eight States across the country.<sup>13</sup>
- Prominent among them are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.



<sup>9</sup> <https://naturalfarming.niti.gov.in/natural-farming/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1795460>

<sup>11</sup> <https://naturalfarming.niti.gov.in/bharatiya-prakritik-krishi-paddhati-bpkp/>

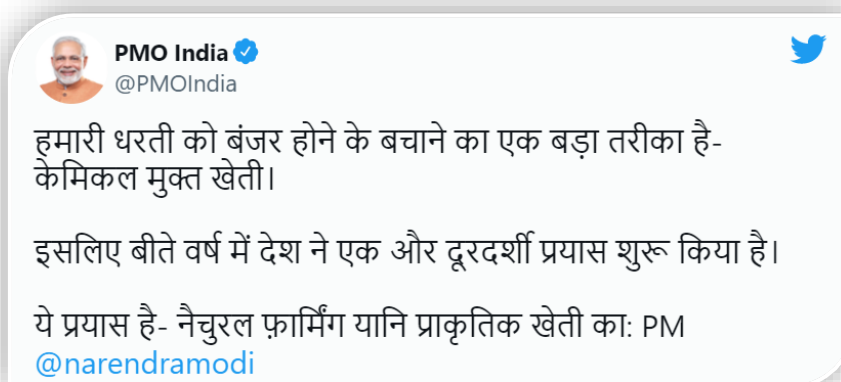
<sup>12</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1795460>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1795460>

For detailed guidelines on BPKP, [click here](#).

**The State- wise details of funds released and area covered under Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) (as on 04.02.2022)**<sup>14</sup>

Sl. No.	States	Released date	Area in Ha	Amount released (Rs in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.09.20	100000	750.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	09.12.20	85000	1352.52
3.	Kerala	30.09.20	84000	1336.60
4.	Himachal Pradesh	24.12.20	12000	286.42
5	Jharkhand	02.12.20	3400	54.10
6.	Odisha	02.02.21	24000	381.89
7.	Madhya Pradesh	16.02.21	99000	787.64
8.	Tamil Nadu	16.02.21	2000	31.82
Total			409400	4980.99



<sup>14</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1795460>

## Natural Farming Practices in India<sup>15</sup>

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been emphasizing on the importance of chemical-free natural farming. During his address to the farmers at the National Conclave on Natural Farming on **December 16, 2021**, the Prime Minister said that “We need not only to re-learn the ancient knowledge of agriculture but also to sharpen it for modern times. In this direction, we have to do research afresh, mould ancient knowledge into the modern scientific frame”.
- In June 2018, **Andhra Pradesh** government rolled out a plan to become India’s first state to practice 100% natural farming by 2024 by converting state’s 60 lakh farmers to Zero Budget Natural Farming method.<sup>16</sup>
- Government of **Uttar Pradesh** has proposed 98670 ha. area in 35 districts for Natural Farming with budget of Rs. 19722 lakhs. This would benefit 51450 farmers. This also includes the Prayagraj district covering 1000.2 hac. area with 913 farmers.<sup>17</sup>
- Government of **Rajasthan** has been promoting Natural Farming since 2019-20 as a pilot project in Tonk, Sirohi and Bansawara district through State Budget. During financial year 2020-21, the scheme was executed in 15 districts (i.e., Ajmer, Bansawara, Baran, Barmer, Bhilwara, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jaisalmer, Jhalwar, Nagaur, Tonk, Sikar, Sirohi and Udaipur) of the State. Under the scheme since 2019-20, 7213 farmers were trained at Gram Panchayat level training programme on different components of Zero Budget Natural farming (ZBNF) & 2080 farmers were benefitted through subsidy on input-unit in Banaswara district of Rajasthan.<sup>18</sup>
- The Government of **Himachal Pradesh** has launched a scheme named ‘Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana by adopting ‘Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) (also called Zero Budget Natural Farming techniques). As on 31 October, 2021, 1,46,438 farmers of Himachal Pradesh are practising Zero Budget Natural.
- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research** through [ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research](#), Modipuram initiated a study on “Evaluation and validation of Natural Farming Practices in different Agro-ecologies” covering all the pillars (Concoctions such as Beejamrit, Jeevamrit, Ghanjeevamrit; Intercropping; Mulching and Whapasa) of natural



<sup>15</sup> <https://naturalfarming.niti.gov.in/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://sbi.co.in/documents/2182813/4777159/ZERO+BUDGET+NATURAL+FARMING+KISAN+WORLD.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1778901>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

farming under All India Network Programme on Organic Farming from *kharif* 2020 at 20 locations covering 16 States.<sup>19</sup>

- Multi-location evaluation of eight cropping systems [namely Maize +cowpea (fodder) - wheat + chickpea (Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand); Cotton +green gram - *rabi* sorghum +chickpea (Tamil Nadu and Karnataka); Soybean + maize - wheat+mustard (Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh); Rice +*dhaincha* - maize+cowpea (fodder) (Jharkhand and Maharashtra); Turmeric + cowpea—green gram (Kerala and Meghalaya); Cassava +vegetable cowpea – greengram (Kerala); Cowpea+maize (fodder)—Fennel+cabbage (Gujarat, Rajasthan) and Soybean+maize for grain—vegetable pea+ green coriander (Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand)] is being undertaken with the participation of 11 SAUs, eight [ICAR](#) institutes and one special heritage university. The study is in progress.<sup>20</sup>

### References:

- <https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/union-budget-fy-2022-2023>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1794146>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1793814>
- <https://sbi.co.in/documents/2182813/4777159/ZERO+BUDGET+NATURAL+FARMING+KISAN+WORLD.pdf>
- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1795460>
- <https://naturalfarming.niti.gov.in/>

### Reports related to Natural Farming

- Sustainable agriculture in India: What we know and how to scale up- <https://www.ceew.in/publications/sustainable-agriculture-india-2021>
- Can Zero Budget Natural Farming save input costs and fertilizer subsidies? Evidence from Andhra Pradesh- <https://www.ceew.in/sites/default/files/zero.pdf>
- Life Cycle assessment of ZBNF and non ZBNF: [https://cstep.in/drupal/sites/default/files/2020-09/CSTEP\\_ZBNF\\_Report\\_Final\\_Latest.pdf](https://cstep.in/drupal/sites/default/files/2020-09/CSTEP_ZBNF_Report_Final_Latest.pdf)
- Adoption of Natural Farming and its effects on Crop yield and farmers livelihood in India- [https://naarm.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2020\\_NITI\\_Natural-Farming\\_NAARM-CRIDA-1.pdf](https://naarm.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2020_NITI_Natural-Farming_NAARM-CRIDA-1.pdf)
- State of Organic and Natural Farming in India- <https://www.cseindia.org/state-of-organic-and-natural-farming-in-india-10346>

### Other Links:

- <https://twitter.com/DDNewslive/status/1471370680390373381>
- [https://twitter.com/hashtag/NaturalFarming?src=hashtag\\_click](https://twitter.com/hashtag/NaturalFarming?src=hashtag_click)
- [http://dare.nic.in/sites/default/files/42\\_Month\\_English.pdf](http://dare.nic.in/sites/default/files/42_Month_English.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1778901>

<sup>20</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1778901>

- [http://www.mcrhrdi.gov.in/93fc/week2/PA-%208&9,\(T.%20Vijay%20Kumar,%20IAS\(Rtd.\),Innovation%20in%20agriculture%20-%20A.P%20zbnf%20programme.pdf](http://www.mcrhrdi.gov.in/93fc/week2/PA-%208&9,(T.%20Vijay%20Kumar,%20IAS(Rtd.),Innovation%20in%20agriculture%20-%20A.P%20zbnf%20programme.pdf)
- <https://spnfhp.nic.in/SPNF/en-IN/photos.aspx>
- <https://darpg.gov.in/sites/default/files/Paramparagat%20Krishi%20Vikas%20Yojana.pdf>
- <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Over-6.19-lakh-hectare-area-covered-under-natural-and-organic-farming-in-country%2C-informs-Centre-in-Lok-Sabha&id=431957>
- [https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Indian%20Organic%20Foods%20Market%20Report\\_New%20Delhi\\_India\\_06-08-2020](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Indian%20Organic%20Foods%20Market%20Report_New%20Delhi_India_06-08-2020)
- <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=104062>
- <https://data.gov.in/resources/state-wise-budget-allocation-release-and-utilization-received-under-paramparagat-krishi>
- [https://twitter.com/MIB\\_Hindi/status/1491723661182922754](https://twitter.com/MIB_Hindi/status/1491723661182922754)

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