

## Crop Diversification Programme – ‘Mera Pani Meri Virasat’

Diversification in Agriculture refers to the change in the regional dominance of a crop to meet the increasing demand for cereals, pulses, vegetables, fruits, oilseeds, animal feed and grass etc. Its purpose is to improve the dynamic balance of soil health and agro-friendly system. The purpose of crop diversification is to promote the latest technology along with sustainable agriculture and to promote the latest technology with sustainable agriculture and to enable the farmers to choose alternative crops for increasing the productivity and income of the farmers.

The 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' scheme has been launched by the State Government of Haryana during Kharif 2020 for the purpose of water conservation. Through this scheme, the state government is encouraging crops that require less water in place of paddy that consumes more water. Under this scheme, Rs. 7000/- per acre is provided to the farmers who have replaced their paddy crop by alternate crops. During Kharif-2021 the MPMV scheme was continued with some additional alternate crops like Kharif Oilseeds (Til, Castor, Groundnut), Kharif Onion, Kharif Pulses (Moth, Urd, Guar, Soyabean), fodder crops and even fallow lands (Khet Khali Phir Bhi Khushali) were also added in addition to the last year crops i.e. Cotton, Maize, Arhar, Moong, Hort./vegetable under MPMV. Bajra crop was dropped from the above said scheme. The scheme was further strengthened during Kharif-2022 by adding Agroforestry- Popular & Eucalyptus under the ambit of MPMV. By diversifying Paddy with less water consuming alternate crops, about 60% of water (i.e. 0.003542 MCM per acre) can be saved.

Areas covered in the scheme:

- The scheme covers eight blocks including Ratia, Siwan, Guhla, Pipli, Shahabad, Babain, Ismailabad and Sirsa.
- These eight blocks are included in paddy rich areas where ground water table depth is more than 40 meters.
- Paddy was cultivated in the total area of 2,06,000 hectares by these eight blocks in the year 2019.

- In the year 2020, the government aims to replace paddy with alternative crops including maize, cotton, millets and pulses in 50% of the paddy area (1,03,000 ha) of these blocks.

The details of the long term targets under the Crop Diversification Program are as follows:-

- Reduction in area under high water-intensive crops.
- Establishment of alternative crops for sustainable agriculture and inspiration of latest technological technology.
- Increase in farm income, resource conservation, restore water table, and reduce soil fatigue and pollution level.

The detail of area diversified from Paddy and water saving during last three years is as follows:

Year	Area Diversified (in Acre)	No. of Farmers Benefited	Incentive Provided (Rs. in Crore)	Water saving (in MCM) 1 MCM=100 Crore Litre
Kharif 2020	63,743	41,947	45.00	226
Kharif 2021	51,896	32,186	31.00	184
Kharif 2022	58,525	34,239	41.22	208
Total	1,74,164	1,08,372	117.22	618
Kharif 2023*	1,20,000	74,540	84.00	425

\* Target during Kharif 2023.