

(A No. 129) Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan: Catalyzing India's Agricultural Renaissance

Dinesh

Department of Soil Science

Maharana Pratap University of Agricultural and Technology, Udaipur

The Vision for Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047 rests on several foundational pillars, with **Agriculture** being the most critical. As the primary livelihood for over 50% of India's vast population and a significant contributor to the national GDP, the transformation of the agrarian sector is not merely an economic necessity but a socio-political imperative. The **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA)** is a monumental nationwide campaign launched by the Government of India, spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), designed to be the definitive vehicle for this transformation.

The Abhiyan (Campaign) is essentially a time-bound, mission-mode approach to bridge the critical "**Lab-to-Land**" gap, ensuring that the scientific innovations developed in research laboratories reach the farmers' fields, thereby making agriculture resilient, sustainable, and profitable.



Kisan Gazette Published By:

Society for Diversified Agriculture and Rural Development (Regd. Society)

पता: ए-19, भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद — केन्द्रीय मृदा लवणता अनुसंधान, संस्थान, करनाल, हरियाणा — 132001

Page 38

www.kisangazette.in

The Mandate and Core Objectives of VKSA

The VKSA is strategically designed to achieve a multi-faceted transformation of the agricultural sector, aligning directly with the larger national goals. It operates on a principle of direct, grassroots engagement, moving away from centralized policy dissemination.

1. Bridging the 'Lab-to-Land' Gap

The primary and most crucial objective of VKSA is the **direct dissemination of advanced agricultural technologies and knowledge** to the farming community. The campaign mobilizes thousands of agricultural scientists, subject matter specialists from **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)**, and officials from state agricultural departments. These multidisciplinary teams travel to remote villages, engaging in **Kisan Chaupals** (farmer meetings) and field demonstrations. This direct interaction allows farmers to ask questions, share local challenges (like specific pest attacks or weather anomalies), and receive immediate, scientifically validated solutions.

कृषि विज्ञान की मासिक पत्रिका

2. Enhancing Awareness of Government Schemes

A significant portion of the VKSA focuses on **scheme saturation**. Many beneficial government schemes—related to credit, insurance, subsidy for farm mechanization, and irrigation—often fail to reach the most deserving farmers due to a lack of awareness or complex documentation processes. The Abhiyan acts as a one-stop information platform, educating farmers about the eligibility criteria, application process, and benefits of programs like the Soil Health Card, PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, and crop insurance schemes.

3. Promoting Scientific and Sustainable Practices

The campaign places a strong emphasis on modern, resource-efficient, and environment-friendly farming techniques.

- **Soil Health Management:** Educating farmers on the effective utilization of **Soil Health Cards** for balanced fertilizer application, which is crucial for reducing input costs and preventing soil degradation.
- **Climate Resilience:** Promoting the adoption of **climate-resilient crop varieties** developed by ICAR that can withstand droughts, heat stress, or excess moisture.

- **Water Conservation:** Advocating for **micro-irrigation techniques** (drip and sprinkler) to achieve "more crop per drop," a necessity given India's worsening water scarcity.
- **Natural and Organic Farming:** Encouraging the shift towards **chemical-free farming** practices, including the use of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides, to enhance long-term soil fertility and consumer health.

4. Fostering Entrepreneurship and Value Addition

VKSA is not just about increasing yield; it's about boosting farm income. The campaign emphasizes:

- **Crop Diversification:** Guiding farmers away from water-intensive or less profitable monocultures toward high-value crops, horticulture, and specialty crops based on market demand.
- **Post-Harvest Management:** Providing training on low-cost technologies like **Zero Energy Cool Chambers** and improved packaging to minimize the substantial post-harvest losses, particularly in perishable goods like fruits and vegetables.
- **Value Chain Integration:** Encouraging the formation and strengthening of **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** to enable collective bargaining, direct marketing, and processing of raw produce.

Implementation Strategy: A Mission in Motion

The scale and strategy of the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan make it a unique mobilization effort.

1. Massive Mobilization and Outreach

The Abhiyan is typically conducted twice a year, before the crucial Kharif and Rabi sowing seasons, ensuring timely guidance. The May-June 2025 iteration saw an unprecedented scale:

- **Target Reach:** Over **1.5 crore farmers** across more than 700 districts.
- **Personnel:** More than **16,000 agricultural scientists** and experts participated, organized into over 2,000 interdisciplinary teams.

- **Institutional Collaboration:** The entire machinery of ICAR, including its 113 research institutes and 731 KVKs, collaborated seamlessly with state-level departments of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, and fisheries.

2. Direct, On-Field Engagement

The methodology is inherently farmer-centric. Instead of relying solely on mass media, the core of the VKSA is the **direct, face-to-face interaction**. Scientists spent 15 days visiting villages, conducting live demonstrations, soil and water testing camps, and organizing interactive sessions where farmers' feedback was actively solicited to inform future research priorities.

3. Focus on Key Kharif Crops

Given the timing, the campaign provided focused guidance on major Kharif crops specific to different agro-climatic zones. For instance, in oilseed-growing regions, there was focused education on high-density planting and new hybrid varieties of castor and sunflower, ensuring that farmers were equipped with the right knowledge for the upcoming planting season.

Impact and the Road to Viksit Krishi

The Abhiyan has demonstrated significant potential in reshaping the trajectory of Indian agriculture. Its impact is visible across multiple domains:

1. Economic Empowerment

By promoting cost-saving techniques, such as balanced fertilization based on soil tests, and advising on market-driven diversification, VKSA directly contributes to **reducing the cost of cultivation** and **increasing net farm income**. The emphasis on FPOs and value addition helps farmers capture a larger share of the consumer price.

2. Environmental Sustainability

The campaign acts as a major driver for the government's ambitious targets on environmental conservation. Promoting techniques like Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) and micro-irrigation reduces water usage, while the push for natural farming restores soil health and reduces the environmental footprint of agriculture.

3. Strengthening the Research-Extension System

Kisan Gazette Published By:

Society for Diversified Agriculture and Rural Development (Regd. Society)

पता: ए-19, भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद — केन्द्रीय मृदा लवणता अनुसंधान, संस्थान, करनाल, हरियाणा — 132001

Page 41

www.kisangazette.in

VKSA re-energizes the agricultural extension system. It moves KVKs from being mere technology dissemination points to becoming **knowledge hubs** where farmers are not just recipients of information but active partners in the research process. The feedback loop generated during the campaign is invaluable for scientists to ensure their research is relevant to on-the-ground realities.

4. Enhancing Food and Nutritional Security

By focusing on boosting the productivity of key crops and promoting **nutrition gardens**, the campaign contributes to both national **food self-sufficiency** and improved **nutritional outcomes** for rural households.

Conclusion

The **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan** is more than just a seasonal program; it is a **national pledge** to secure India's agricultural future. It represents a fundamental shift in the government's approach—from passive policy implementation to active, technology-driven farmer engagement. By mobilizing its vast network of scientists and resources to directly empower farmers with knowledge, technology, and market strategies, the VKSA is laying the groundwork for a truly "Viksit Krishi" sector. This empowered, resilient, and scientifically informed agricultural foundation is the key, the very first step, toward realizing the grand vision of a **Viksit Bharat by 2047**. The success of this Abhiyan will determine the speed and sustainability with which India secures its position as a **global agricultural powerhouse and a reliable food basket for the world**.