

Transforming Agriculture and Empowering Women: A Deep Dive into the NAMO Drone Didi Scheme

(The NAMO Drone Didi scheme, championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is set to empower 15,000 women Self Help Groups by providing cutting-edge drone technology, revolutionizing agriculture, fostering economic independence, and addressing challenges in the fertilizer sector.)



(Source: Rising Kashmir)

Empowering Women in Agriculture:

In a visionary move to empower women in rural India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the NAMO Drone Didi scheme, recognizing its pivotal role in making women integral stakeholders in local farming supply chains and rural prosperity. This groundbreaking initiative, announced on November 30, focuses on providing drone technology to 15,000 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) over the period from 2023-24 to 2025-26. The scheme aims to revolutionize agriculture, enhance productivity, and create employment opportunities for women and the youth.

Revolutionizing Agriculture:

1. Harnessing Cutting-Edge Drone Technology

The NAMO Drone Didi scheme strategically addresses the pressing need for modernizing agricultural practices. By equipping rural women with cutting-edge drone technology, the initiative transforms them into key players in the rural economy. Drones, once a symbol of advanced warfare, are now becoming tools for economic empowerment, marking a paradigm shift in how technology can be harnessed for societal progress.

2. Positioning Women at the Forefront of the Agricultural Revolution

Women, often the backbone of rural communities, are now being positioned at the forefront of the agricultural revolution. The scheme not only empowers women economically but also fosters a sense of ownership and agency. This, in turn, contributes significantly to rural prosperity, aligning with the broader vision of women's empowerment crucial for building a strong and developed nation.

Revolutionizing Agriculture Through Technology:



(Source: Trade Brains)

1. Meeting Challenges in the Fertilizer Sector

India, despite being the second-largest fertilizer producer, faces challenges due to limited natural resources, leading to heavy dependence on imports. The Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme, part of the government's comprehensive strategy, focuses on reviving closed-down fertilizer units and establishing new ones. This ensures stable fertilizer prices for farmers and addresses challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and global geopolitical tensions.

2. Indigenous Research and Groundbreaking Solutions

The Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme doesn't just aim at sustaining the fertilizer sector but encourages indigenous research. This has resulted in groundbreaking liquid nano fertilizers, marking a significant step towards self-reliance in agriculture. The scheme aligns with the larger goal of reducing dependency on external sources and promoting indigenous solutions to agricultural challenges.

Drone Technology: A Solution for Efficient Fertigation:



(Source: Outlook Startup)

1. Kisan Drones: Revolutionizing Agricultural Practices

The emergence of Kisan Drones represents a leap forward in agricultural practices. These drones automate the spraying of pesticides and liquid fertilizers, saving time and providing a safer and more efficient application system. The NAMO Drone Didi scheme integrates this technology into its framework, enhancing its impact on agricultural productivity.

2. Employment Opportunities for the Youth

Beyond empowering women, the scheme creates employment opportunities for the youth in drone manufacturing, piloting, mechanics, and spare-part dealerships. This not only supports economic growth but also ensures that the benefits of technological advancement are spread across different segments of the population, fostering a more inclusive agricultural ecosystem.

Promoting Equity and Efficiency Through Drone Technology:

1. Women as Drone Pilots: Strengthening Agrarian Family Culture

The NAMO Drone Didi scheme promotes equity and strength in agrarian family culture. Women, trained as drone pilots, play a vital role in enhancing agricultural productivity and efficiency. This not only breaks gender stereotypes but also contributes to a more inclusive and diverse agricultural landscape.

2. Quicker and More Efficient Application of Pesticides and Fertilizers

The application of pesticides and liquid fertilizers through drones saves farmers from physical toil, providing a quicker and more efficient method. This, in turn, allows more time for productive agricultural work, ultimately contributing to increased crop yield and economic prosperity for farmers.

Central Sector Scheme: Empowering Women SHGs Through Drones:



(Source: B2B)

1. Holistic Interventions and Collaborations:

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 1261 Crore for the period from 2024-25 to 2025-26. The scheme involves holistic interventions by converging the resources and efforts of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Department of Rural Development, and Department of Fertilizers, along with Women SHGs and Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs).

2. Financial Assistance and Training:

The scheme provides Central Financial Assistance at 80% of the cost of drones and accessories, up to a maximum of Rs. Eight Lakh, to women SHGs for the purchase of drones. Additionally, the Cluster Level Federation (CLFs) of SHGs may raise the balance amount as a loan under the National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility, with an interest subvention of 3%. Training is a key component, with selected members undergoing a 15-day program, including drone pilot training and agriculture-focused training for nutrient and pesticide application.

3. Bridging Gaps Through Lead Fertilizer Companies:

Recognizing the potential difficulties SHGs may face in procuring, repairing, and maintaining drones, Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) play a crucial role. They act as a bridge between drone supplier companies and SHGs, ensuring a smooth flow of technology and support.

Envisaged Impact and Future Prospects:

The NAMO Drone Didi scheme is expected to provide sustainable business and livelihood support to 15,000 SHGs. The aim is for these groups to earn an additional income of at least Rs. One lakh per annum. Beyond economic benefits, the scheme infuses advanced technology into agriculture, promising improved efficiency, enhanced crop yield, and reduced operational costs for farmers.

NAMO Drone Didi – A Catalyst for Agricultural Transformation:

In conclusion, the NAMO Drone Didi scheme emerges as a catalyst for agricultural transformation, blending technological innovation with a commitment to women's empowerment. By strategically integrating drone technology into the agricultural landscape, the initiative not only addresses immediate challenges but also paves the way for a more sustainable and inclusive future for rural communities. As the scheme unfolds, its impact on the lives of women, the youth, and farmers is poised to become a beacon of success in India's journey towards a technologically advanced and socially equitable agricultural sector.