



(Source: NDTV)

1. Identifying Economically Feasible Usage

To optimize the impact of drone services, the scheme aims to identify appropriate clusters where the usage of drones is economically feasible. This targeted approach ensures that the resources are directed to areas where they can make a substantial difference in agricultural practices.

2. Selecting Women SHGs for Maximum Reach

In these identified clusters, a total of 15,000 Women SHGs across various states will be selected to receive drones. This strategic selection process not only ensures maximum reach but also promotes inclusivity by involving women in the agricultural value chain.

Financial Support: Empowering Women with Resources

1. Central Financial Assistance for Drone Procurement

One of the critical aspects of the scheme is the provision of Central Financial Assistance, covering 80% of the cost of drones and related accessories/ancillary charges, up to a maximum of Rs. Eight Lakh. This financial support empowers Women SHGs to acquire the necessary technology for providing drone services.

2. National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility (AIF) as a Catalyst

The scheme recognizes the financial constraints that SHGs may face and addresses this by allowing the Cluster Level Federation (CLFs) of SHGs to raise the balance amount as a loan under the National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility (AIF). An additional incentive is the interest subvention of 3% on the AIF loan, making the financial burden more manageable for the SHGs.

Comprehensive Training: Building Capacities for Success



(Source: English Jagran)

1. Skill Development for Drone Pilots

Members of Women SHGs selected for the scheme will undergo a comprehensive 15-day training program. This includes a mandatory 5-day drone pilot training, equipping them with the skills necessary for operating drones effectively.

2. Agriculture-focused Training for Holistic Service Provision

In addition to drone pilot training, the members will receive an additional 10-day training program focused on agricultural practices. This includes knowledge about nutrient and pesticide application, empowering SHGs not only in drone operation but also in providing valuable agricultural services to farmers.

3. Strategic Selection of Qualified Members

To ensure the success of the training programs, the scheme envisions the election of qualified members for drone pilot training. This strategic selection process ensures that the individuals undergoing training are well-suited for the roles they will play in the drone services.

4. Inclusion of Repair and Maintenance Training

Recognizing the potential challenges in the maintenance of drones, the scheme takes a forward-looking approach by selecting members or family members of SHGs inclined towards repairs and maintenance. These individuals will be trained as drone technicians or assistants, ensuring the sustainability and longevity of the drone services.

Bridging the Gap: LFCs as Facilitators

1. The Role of Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs)

Considering the potential challenges that SHGs may face in procuring, repairing, and maintaining drones, the scheme introduces Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) as facilitators. These companies will act as a bridge between drone supplier companies and SHGs, streamlining the procurement and maintenance processes.

2. Ensuring Smooth Functioning of Drone Services

The involvement of LFCs as intermediaries adds a layer of expertise and support, ensuring that SHGs can effectively engage with drone technology. This strategic partnership is crucial for the seamless functioning of drone services and the overall success of the scheme.

Promoting Nano Fertilizers: A Technological Leap



(Source: Krishak Jagat)

1. Beyond Drone Services: Nano Fertilizers Promotion

The scheme goes beyond the provision of drone services by actively promoting the use of Nano Fertilizers such as Nano Urea and Nano DAP. By incorporating these innovative fertilizers into the drone services, the initiative contributes to sustainable and efficient agricultural practices.

2. Drones for Nano Fertilizer and Pesticide Applications

SHGs participating in the scheme will not only offer drone services for conventional agricultural practices but will also rent out drones for Nano fertilizer and pesticide applications. This forward-looking approach aligns with the broader goal of integrating advanced technologies into traditional farming practices.

Economic Empowerment: Additional Income for Women SHGs

1. Envisaging Sustainable Business and Livelihood Support

The scheme is not merely a technology infusion; it is a strategic move towards providing sustainable business and livelihood support to Women SHGs. The vision is to enable these SHGs to earn an additional income of at least Rs. One lakh per annum, creating a positive economic impact on the lives of participating women.

2. Empowering Women Farmers as Entrepreneurs

By facilitating the provision of drone services and promoting the use of advanced agricultural technologies, the scheme positions Women SHGs as entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector. This economic empowerment is a crucial step towards realizing the vision of 'lakhpati didi' as outlined by Prime Minister Modi.

Technological Advancement in Agriculture: Impact on Efficiency and Yield

1. Enhanced Agricultural Efficiency

With the infusion of advanced drone technology, the scheme is poised to enhance agricultural efficiency significantly. Drones can cover large areas quickly and precisely, facilitating tasks such as crop monitoring, pest control, and nutrient application. This, in turn, contributes to improved agricultural practices and increased yields.



2. Improved Crop Yields and Reduced Operational Costs

The integration of drones into farming practices is expected to lead to improved crop yields. Drones allow for targeted and efficient application of fertilizers and pesticides, reducing wastage and operational costs for farmers. This is a crucial aspect, especially in the context of sustainable and cost-effective agriculture.

In conclusion, the Central Sector Scheme for providing drones to Women Self Help Groups is a pioneering initiative that intersects women's empowerment, technological advancement, and agricultural innovation. The comprehensive approach, from financial support to training and the promotion of advanced agricultural practices, signifies a commitment to transforming the landscape of Indian agriculture. As the scheme unfolds, it holds the promise of not only empowering women in rural communities but also catalyzing a technological revolution in agriculture for the benefit of farmers at large.

