

# Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana 2026, Eligibility, Benefits

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The Union government has decided to expand the ambit of the PM Fasal Bima Yojana to include crop damage by animals as a ground for payouts, a long-standing demand by farmers, an official said recently.

## About Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- Launched on 18th February **2016**, PMFBY is a **crop insurance scheme** by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation, and Farmers' Welfare, **Ministry of Agriculture**.
- PMFBY aims to provide financial protection to farmers **against crop loss due to natural disasters** (hail, drought, famine), **pests, and diseases**.
- PMFBY provides crop insurance **at a cost-effective premium** to all Indian farmers.
- It is **implemented through a network of insurance companies and banks**.

## Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana Objectives

- To provide **financial assistance** and support **to farmers suffering from crop damage** or loss arising out of **unforeseen events**.
- To stabilise the income of farmers and ensure continuance in farming.
- To **encourage** the farmers to adopt modern and **innovative agricultural practices**.
- To **ensure crop diversification**, and creditworthiness of the farmers, enhance growth, and competitiveness of the agriculture sector and protect the farmers from production risks.

## Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana Eligibility

- **All farmers, including sharecroppers and tenant farmers, growing the notified crops in the notified areas** are eligible for coverage.
- **Compulsory Component:** All farmers availing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) loans from **Financial Institutions** (i.e. loanee farmers) for the notified crops would be covered compulsorily.
- **Voluntary Component:** The Scheme would be **optional for the non-loanee farmers**.
- Farmers must have an insurable interest in the insured crops.
- Farmers **must possess** a valid and **authenticated land ownership certificate** or a valid **land tenure agreement**.
- Farmers must not have received compensation for the same crop loss from any other medium or source.
- **Special efforts** shall be made **to ensure maximum coverage of SC/ST/Women farmers** under the scheme.
- **Budget allocation and utilization** under this should be **in proportion to land holdings of SC/ ST/ General along with women** in the respective state cluster.

## Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana Benefits

- **Affordable Premiums:**
  - The maximum premium payable by the farmer will be 2% for the Kharif food and oilseed crops.
  - For rabi food and oilseed crops, it is 1.5% and for yearly commercial or horticultural crops it will be 5%.
  - The remaining premium is subsidized by the government.
  - For the farmers in the North-Eastern States, Jammu, Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh, the government also pays the entire premium.
- **Comprehensive Coverage:**
  - The scheme covers **natural disasters** (droughts, floods), **pests, and diseases**.
  - **Post-harvest losses due to local risks like hailstorms and landslides** are also included.
  - Loss or **damage** to notified insured crops **due to war, nuclear risks, malicious damage** and other preventable risks is **excluded** from the scope of coverage.
- **Timely Compensation:** PMFBY aims to **process claims within two months of the harvest** to ensure that farmers get the compensation quickly, preventing them from falling into debt traps.
- **Technology-Driven Implementation:**
  - PMFBY integrates advanced technologies like **satellite imaging, drones**, and mobile apps for **precise estimation of crop loss**, ensuring accurate claim settlements.

- The **National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP)** digitizes processes for seamless farmer-insurer-bank interaction. **YES-TECH (Yield Estimation System Based on Technology)** ensures **remote sensing based accurate yield estimation**, while **CROPIC (Collection of Real-time photos and Observations of Crops)** uses **geotagged photos** to verify crops for precise damage assessment.

**Source: HT**

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