Quit India was a landmark movement in our history. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's clarion call of Do and Die, people across India pledged to dedicate themselves to India's freedom. Today, on the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement, we salute all those who took part in the freedom struggle. Let us pledge to work shoulder to shoulder and dedicate ourselves towards creating a “New India” that would make our freedom fighters proud.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister
SEVEN-POINT STRATEGY TO DOUBLE FARMERS’ INCOME BY 2022

It is challenging to provide food to the weaker sections of the society in the remotest areas of the country with difficult geographical conditions and economic disparities in a country like India. However, the favourable policies, beneficial schemes of the government and their effective implementation during the year 2015, 2016 & 2017, have made it possible with a remarkable success. Under the able guidance of Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi it has been for the first time that a strategic planning has been done to double the income of our farmers. Several schemes have been launched for this purpose at the national level. Through them, the farmers are being made aware of new agriculture technologies and other avenues which could pave way for doubling their incomes. It may be appropriate to mention here that to promote effective and judicious use of water, techniques like drip irrigation and sprinkle irrigation have been developed which are being popularized up to the farmer’s fields. National level Programmes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented which aims at ‘More crop Per Drop’. Schemes like ‘Swasth Dhara- Khet Hara’ have been launched to maintain the soil health fertility where in Soil Health Cards are being issued to the farmers. With the initiative of the current Government, a new scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has been launched across the country overcoming the inherent deficiencies of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. This is the largest investment in the agricultural sector to reduce the possible risks of this sector.
Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has emphasised on ‘bringing ‘Sadabahar Kranti’ (Evergreen Revolution) to combat the challenges of agricultural sector. Keeping this in view, for the first time, Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been launched to develop and conserve Indigenous Breeds of cows. After achieving Food Security, the focus now is to achieve nutritional security for which, the government is emphasizing on science and technological interventions. Simultaneously, in a move to link farmers with online facilities to enable them to sell their produce anywhere in the country at the best price through click of a button and to learn the prices of agricultural produce in different mandis, 585 mandis are being linked with e-NAM portal. The Government is also committed to enhancing the capabilities of farmers decide the prices of their agricultural produce, for which the importance is being given to cashless transactions.

Today, India is going through a digital and mobile revolutions with mobile penetration being right up to village level. A beginning to link information technology with the agriculture sector has already been made. Mobile and the internet are helping in maintaining two-way communications between the government and the farmers. In view of the growing importance of mobile and internet for agriculture, the government has launched many websites, portals, phone services, mobile apps and agriculture SMS services. Through Kisan Suvidha App, farmers are getting information on weather conditions, input dealers, market price, plant protection along with appropriate advisories. To address the dilemma of crop damage due to natural calamities and vagaries of weather, the revolutionary Bhuvan App has been launched to learn and assess the damages caused by the hailstorm. The farmers can seek solutions to their agriculture related problems through a toll-free telephone no. 18001801551 while sitting at home.
In a planned move to double the income of our farmers by 2022, the Government is focussing on its ‘seven-point strategies’ to convert these initiatives into “Sankalp se Siddhi”.

**First Point**

**Focus on Irrigation along with adequate resource building**

India has 142 million hectares agriculture land, out of which only 48% land is under institutional irrigation. With the objective of providing water to every field, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana has been launched on July 1, 2015 and to provide end to end solution in irrigation supply chain, water resources, network distribution as well as farm level application.

PMKSY, not only focusses on resource building for assured irrigation but also on the water conservation through rain water harvesting for protected irrigation.

To ensure **More Crop Per Drop** through micro irrigation, requisite government support is being provided to encourage the farmers. There is 3 component of PMKSY

i) bringing additional areas under assured irrigation in view of given the importance of irrigation in agricultural production. The Long-Term Irrigation Fund of Rs. 20,000 crore constituted under NABARD during 2016-17 has been enhanced to Rs. 40,000 crore during 2017-18. To expedite completion of 99 long pending irrigation projects, Long-term Irrigation Funds have been put to use so that 8.6 million hectares additional lands could be brought under irrigation.
ii) **PMKSY**: The task of recharging water resources is being carried out by Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development. Ridge Area Treatment, draining line treatment, soil and damp preservation, water harvesting infrastructural livelihood activities and other water shed construction related activities are included under the scheme. It aims at maintaining water table, particularly recharging land water reservoir and keeping them intact.

iii) **Micro irrigation (More Crop Per Drop)**: Under this scheme, micro level storage infrastructure, water supply and its efficient application, systematic irrigation system (Drip and Sprinkler), extension activities, coordination and management of water are being emphasized upon. For this, requisite financial assistance is being provided to bring efficiency in water use there by promoting water conservation and More Crop Per Drop.

Let us take a pledge – that we will diligently implement the PMKSY scheme as this may bring prosperity through water conservation and maintenance of our soil health.

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**Second Point**

**Increase Production through Improved Seeds, Planting Materials, Organic Farming and Soil Health Card.**

Creating adequate resources for dissemination of improved seeds under National Food Security Mission and National Food Oil and Oil Palm Mission was a challenge and the present Government has tried to accomplish this task.

Modi Government has given priority to enhancing the production of wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds and horticultural production. Pulses
are mostly grown under rainfed conditions in marginal to sub-marginal lands by small holdings and marginal farmers. Therefore, the government is committed to making India self-sufficient in pulse production along with providing help to small and marginal farmers. During the last two years, there has been an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for pulses and Government has given bonus to incentivize cultivation of pulses for Kharif 2017. Under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) more than 60% of the budget has been allocated for pulses. The Department has formulated a five years roadmap (2016-17 to 2020-21) with an objective to produce up to 24 million tones pulses annually. During the first year of initiation of the scheme, production of 22 million tons of pulses is being estimated against the target of 20 million tons of pulses.

The Modi Government has relaxed the restrictions for providing assistance to more than 25-hectare area and enhanced the assistance for planting material, maintenance, intercropping and borewell.

The horticulture sector has also achieved credibility in enhancing the income of farmers through better productivity. The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme, through its area extension programme has planted new orchards on 3,79,146 hectare lands during 2014-15 to 2016-17 (first estimate). During the same period, 70,976 hectares old orchards were revived. During 2014-15 to 2016-17, protected cultivation was carried out on 87,110-hectare area and organic farming on 23,321-hectare area.

**Soil Health Card Scheme** has been launched to provide Soil Health Cards to every field in the country. Under this scheme, Soil Health Card will be issued every two years to 12 crore
agricultural holdings across the country, thereby informing the nutrients status of the soils to enable farmers to use recommended dozes of fertilisers as prescribed in the cards. This will help reduce the cost of cultivation and ensure sustained production and productivity. In addition, the Government has decided to make neem quoted urea which has led to 10% reduction in the use of urea and cost of cultivation.

To encourage organic farming, for the first time the Modi Government has launched Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana with an aim to cover two lakh hectares of certified land in the span of three years. As a result, during 2014-17 there has been 176% increase in organic farming covering 20 lakh hectare as compared to 7.23 lakh hectare during 2011-14.

Let us pledge to keep our soils healthy and adopt Organic farming which may reduce our cost of cultivation and enhance production & productivity their by raising our incomes

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**Third Point**

**Strengthening warehousing and cold chain facilities to curb post-harvest losses**

As per a study, there is a loss of Rs. 52651 crore of agriculture produce occurs every year due to lack of basic post-harvest infrastructure facilities. Modi government is investing 30 to 35% of the budget for the growth of cold chain infrastructure under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.

To encourage farmers to store their produce in warehousing against warehouse receipts, the Modi government is providing the benefit of interest subvention to small and marginal farmers for a period of up
to six months post-harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouses. To promote collateral loan system, the government is working on e-negotiable warehousing receipt to make the process easier for farmers.

**Let us take a pledge that we will not go in for a distress sale and shall keep our produce in warehouses which may even improve our access to credit**

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**Fourth Point**

**Value addition through food processing**

The Government has allowed 100% FDI in food processing and food retail. The food processing units can obtain loans at preferential rate under priority sector lending. Along with that the food security parameters have been made at par with global standards and a further growth of this sector is envisaged after full implementation of GST.

Recently, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has launched SAMPADA and under which the food processing capabilities will be strengthened through establishment of backward and forward linkages of agro-processing clusters. 20 lakh farmers will be benefited by this scheme and it will create employment opportunities for 5.3 lakh people.

**Let us pledge to link with the Food Processing interventions of the Government and develop our cabilities to get better employment opportunities.**
Fifth Point
Overcoming deficiencies in agriculture marketing through e-NAM.

The Modi government launched e-NAM on April 14, 2016, and so far, 455 mandis have been linked to this scheme and online trading has already begun on 116 Mandis. The aim of the Government is to consolidate the dis-integrated APMCs and create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. The e-NAM will reduce information disparity and intermediation costs and may provide transparency and competitiveness to enable farmers to get better price of their produce.

Apart from e-NAM, the government has launched Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act (which includes private market yards, direct marketing) and all the State Governments have been directed to implement it in their states. Also, the Government is working on a Model Act to promote contract farming.

Let us pledge to associate ourselves with this endeavour of the Government for this may fetch the farmer’s better price of their produce.

Sixth Point
Work on institutional loan to reduce risk and growth of agriculture sector.

The Government is taking effective and substantial measures to reduce the risk of agriculture sector through Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) so that farmers feel secure even during the occurrence of natural calamities. The Government has launched
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 after an extensive review of the prevailing crop insurance schemes.

New provisions have been included to make this scheme beneficial for the farmers. Under PMFBY and RWBCIS, the Government provides extensive crop insurance coverage from pre-sowing to post-harvesting losses from natural calamities on the very low premium rates i.e. 2% for Kharif crops; 1.5% for Rabi crops and 5% for annual commercial/horticulture crops. Remaining insured/bid premium is borne by the Centre and State governments on 50-50 basis. To make the physical assessment of the losses, the unit area for insurance has been reduced from the tehsil/district level to village/village panchayat level for the major crops and for a hail storm, landslides and inundation related local risks, it has been reduced to individual farms. However, the claims are disposed off on the basis of assessment related to yield loss at the end of the season. The immediate advance relief is provided to the insured farmers in adverse weather conditions.

As against the coverage of 309 lakhs farmers in 2015 in the erstwhile scheme, 390 lakhs farmers have been covered under the PMFBY in the first year i.e. Kharif year 2016 season due to the better qualities and efforts made by the Government.

During the same period, the coverage of 15 lakh loanee farmers in 2015 increased to 105 lakh in Kharif 2016. Apart from this, there has been an improvement in the sum insured in the Kharif 2016. During 2015, per hectare insured amount was Rs. 20,461 which increased to Rs. 36,662 in Kharif 2016.

The Government has taken various steps to provide quick relief to insured farmers. A time frame has been fixed for every activity in the
directives. The Department has introduced CCE Agri App to provide production data and it has been made mandatory to provide production data of crops on CCE Agri App/smart phone. Also, for the clearance of claims, new remote sensing technology is being used to ascertain factual assessment of the losses.

The aim is to increase the coverage of this scheme from 30% of crop area in 2016-17 to 40% of crop area in the year of 2017-18 and 50% in 2017-18.

To protect farmers from moneylenders, the flow of loan has been enhanced. The loan flow, which was Rs. 7 lakh crore in 2013-14, has been increased to Rs. 10 lakh crore in 2017-18.

Apart from this, the Government provides 3% additional interest subvention for Rs. 3 lakh short term crop loans. At present, the loan is available at 7% interest rate which further reduces to 4% on prompt full payment. Also, under the interest subvention scheme, 2% interest subvention will continue on the predetermined amount by banks to provide relief to the farmers in case of natural calamities. The interest loan subsidy for the year 2013-14 was Rs. 6 thousand crore which was enhanced to Rs. 20,339 crore for the year 2017-18.

As financial rejuvenation is one of the initiatives of the Government, there is a proposal of computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) for the year 2017-18. Apart from fulfilling the target of financial rejuvenation, PACKS computerisation is essential for interest subvention Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the success of DBT for numerous services and supply of fertilisers, seeds, etc. It will facilitate the disbursement of loan, reduce the cost of transaction as well as help in reviewing schemes to avoid the duplication of the schemes.
Joint Liability Group (JLG) is an informal group comprising preferably of 4 to 10 individuals coming together for the purposes of availing bank loan either singly or through the group mechanism against the mutual guarantee.

This scheme was started by NABARD in 2005-06 to finance Joint Liability Groups. From the year 2009, the scheme was continued in the non-agriculture sector. Thus, farmers and non-farmers groups joined JLG. The Government started a scheme in the year 2015-16 for landless farmers. The target of this scheme was to finance 5 lakh Joint Liability Groups of ‘Bhoomi Heen Kisan’ through NABARD. The total number of JLGs up to 30.09.2016 was 18.21 lakh and the amount of loan (cumulative) distributed to them was Rs. 18005.79 crore.

**Let us pledge to derive full benefits of PMFBY as the scheme**

**Provides quicker better and comprehensive relief from crop losses due to natural calamities**

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**Seventh Point**

**Allied activities of agriculture like Dairy development, Poultry, Beekeeping, Fisheries, Agro-forestry and Integrated Farming System**

In addition to agriculture, the Government is working on eight other income generation activities for farmers such as animal husbandry, poultry, beekeeping, fisheries, agro-forestry and dairy development. The Government strogly believes that development of these sectors may have a vital role in enhancing the income of farmers. As a consequence, there has been a steady growth of these sectors in last 3 years.
Government has accordingly launched Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Mission on Bovine Productivity, Dairy Development, Blue Revolution, Agro-forestry, Beekeeping, Poultry, Solar Cell:

**Rashtriya Gokul Mission** has been launched for the first time in the country to conserve and develop Indigenous Breeds of cows in a scientific and holistic manner. Under this Mission, 35 projects in 27 states have been approved with setting up of 31 high pedigree Mother Bull Farm (for genetic improvement) and testing of 30000 artificial insemination techniques, which resulted in 7.3 crore artificial inseminations this year. In addition, two Kamdhenu Breeding Centres are being set up, one each in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for the conservation of Indigenous Breeds on a national level.

**National Bovine Productivity Mission:** National Bovine Productivity mission- Under this mission Nakul Swasthya Patra along with UID identifications are being issued to 8.8 crore milch animals for the first time in the country. This is helping in the monitoring of their health and productivity and their timely treatment. In order to increase the number of female bovines, advanced reproductive techniques like gender sorted bovine semen technique is being used and 50 embryo transfer centres and in-vitro fertilization (I.V.F.) centres are being opened. A national genomic centre is also being set up which will increase the productivity of indigenous breeds in few years through genomic techniques. In this sequence, in November 2016 e-pashudhan haat portal was launched for the first time in the country to sell and buy high-quality semen of livestock. On this portal till June 12, 2017, information regarding 15,831 live animals, 4.71 crore semen doses and 373 embryos has been uploaded. 3 crore semen doses and 100 milch animals have also been sold on
this portal till date.

**Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)** aims to create opportunities of self-employment and is being implemented through NABARD.

**National Dairy Plan** is being implemented by NDDB to produce High Genetic Merit (HGM) cattle and buffalo bulls, fodder development programme etc.

**Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund** is established with Rs. 8000 crore for the revival of old Schemes of Dairy Processing and Infrastructure. The fund will be spent in the next three years.

**Blue Revolution:** Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries is a new initiative under which inland fisheries, Aquaculture, Mariculture are undertaken by National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). In addition, the Government has included a new sub-component “Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing” under Blue Revolution on 09.03.2017 for the welfare of Traditional sea fishers, under which the Central Government provides financial assistance of 50% of Deep Sea Fishing vessels cost with a ceiling of Rs. 40 lakh to the traditional fishers. Hon’ble Prime Minister launched this scheme on 28.07.2017 in Rameswaram with five fishers being provided sanction order for releasing the amount under the scheme.

First-time **Sub-Mission on Agroforestry** has been implemented with an aim to promote inter-cropping. Under this scheme, “Med Per Ped” campaign has been launched. Besides this, there is a provision for intermediate plantation, Block Plantation. Plantation can be done on cultivable fallow land.
Through **Beekeeping**, large numbers of farmers/apiculture farmers are being trained in scientific apiculture through apiculture development. Along with that, Apiculture farmers/honey societies/firms/companies etc. are being registered. During the year 2011-14, honey production was to the tune of 2,18,950 million tone and during 2014-17 an increases of 20.54% was registered with a production of 2,63,930 million tones. For the development of one District in each State, one model centre of Integrated Bee Keeping Development Centre (IBDC) is being set up.

**Rural Backyard Poultry Development** has been started mainly to enable the needy to gain supplementary income and nutritional support. Four weeks old 45 chicks which are suitable for backyard poultry are distributed. Every beneficiary is provided assistance for cages, night shelters and fodder etc.

Through the **Grid Connected Rooftop Small Solar Power Programme**, the Government can establish grid connected small solar projects on vacant fallow land and unused land between the fields. Through the project, generated electricity by the cells is directly sent to the grid. The generated electricity serves as an additional income source to the farmers. Besides this, solar pumps are also available on subsidy to the farmers.

For accelerated **agricultural growth**, let us come forward and join hands with Prime Minister’s clarion call ‘Sankalp to Siddhi’ through effective and efficacious implementation of these initiatives; generation of resources and good governance.

To double our incomes by 2022.

*Jai Hind*
NEW INDIA PLEDGE

Let us together pledge for a new India. In 1942, our freedom fighters had taken a pledge of “Quit India” and in 1947, India achieved independence.

Come, let us together pledge for building a New India by 2022.

- Let us together pledge towards a Clean India.
- Let us together pledge towards a Poverty-free India.
- Let us together pledge towards a Corruption-free India.
- Let us together pledge towards a Terrorism-free India.
- Let us together pledge towards a Communalism-free India.
- Let us together pledge towards a Casteism-free India.

Let us together pledge for doubling agriculture income by 2022.

- Let us together pledge to adopt insurance for crop to secure income.
- Let us together pledge to adopt organic farming and Soil Health Card for the health of the soil.
- Let us together pledge to adopt high-yielding seeds and planting material.
- Let us together pledge we will adopt integrated agriculture system.
- Let us together pledge we will do value addition of agriculture produce and we will facilitate secure and proper storage of food grain.

We will devote ourselves by our soul and deed to accomplish our resolve to build new India.