

A Comprehensive Review of Development Schemes for the Farmers in West Bengal

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SUMMARY

This report highlights key welfare schemes started by the Government of West Bengal that aim to improve social security, livelihood, and sustainable development. The Krishak Bandhu Scheme provides direct financial help and insurance benefits to farmers. This reduces dependency on moneylenders and ensures timely agricultural productivity. The Amader Para Amader Samadhan project empowers local communities to identify and prioritize their development needs. It guarantees funding for every booth. The Student Internship Programme 2024 offers opportunities for undergraduate, ITI, and polytechnic students to gain professional experience while receiving financial support. The Jal Dharo Jal Bharo initiative focuses on rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation, and the conservation of water resources across the state. Together, these schemes show the government's commitment to inclusive growth, farmer welfare, youth empowerment, and environmental sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

The Government of West Bengal has launched several key initiatives to meet the diverse needs of its citizens. These programs focus on improving agricultural productivity, building rural infrastructure, empowering communities, promoting youth development, and protecting natural resources. By addressing important areas like farmer welfare, community participation, student skill development, and sustainable water management, the state seeks to create a more resilient and inclusive society. Each program, including direct financial support to farmers through Krishak Bandhu, community-driven planning with Amader Para Amader Samadhan, skill development via the Student Internship Programme 2024, and environmental protection under Jal Dharo Jal Bharo, takes a comprehensive approach to sustainable growth and social support. This report outlines these schemes, their goals, and their effects on the people of West Bengal.

Schemes and their objectives

Krishak Bandhu Scheme: The Krishak Bandhu Scheme, first announced in January 2019, was designed with the vision to empower farmers financially and socially directly. Unlike traditional subsidy-based systems, this scheme provides direct cash support and benefits like insurance to the families of farmers. The scheme's goals are both economic and social in nature. Some of the major objectives include: To provide immediate financial assistance to farmers for purchasing seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, and other agricultural inputs, ensuring timely preparation for cultivation. To safeguard the interests of small and marginal farmers, who often bear the brunt of economic stress in agriculture. To introduce a form of social security by compensating the family of a farmer in the unfortunate event of their demise, thus preventing financial hardship from turning into a prolonged crisis.

Since its inception, the Krishak Bandhu Scheme has had a noticeable positive impact on West Bengal's farming community: It has significantly reduced the dependency of farmers on private moneylenders, thereby lowering the debt burden. The infusion of timely cash support has improved crop planning and productivity, as farmers can now purchase better-quality seeds, fertilisers, and equipment.

Amader Para Amader Samadhan: A unique project, named 'Amader Para Amader Somadhan' was launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on 2nd August, 2025 to provide services to the people across the state. In this project, people would identify the problems of their booth areas themselves, make a list with priority, and the government would implement the work based on that list.

₹10 Lac for every Booth of Bengal: Universal coverage for over 80,000 Booths, no Para will be left behind. You decide how your Booth's ₹10 Lac is spent: your Para, your Priorities, your Decision. 27000+ APAS Camps across Bengal: Come Together, Shape your booth's Future. Work starts within 90 days: Transparent, Visible Action.

Student Internship Programme: The State Government has launched "Student Internship Programme 2024". Under this scheme, the Undergraduates, ITI, and polytechnic students are eligible for an

internship. Interested candidates must secure a minimum of 60% marks in the preliminary examination, and the upper age limit for application is 40 years. Participants in the scheme will receive a monthly salary of Rs 10,000 during the training period. Additionally, they will gain practical work experience in various government offices, panchayat municipalities, and corporations. Students can apply for the scheme through the online portal on the official website of the West Bengal Higher Education Department.

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Jal Dharo Jal Bharo: The Government of West Bengal has launched the Scheme "Jal Dharo- Jal Bharo" during the year 2011-12 for the preservation of precious water resources. For the successful implementation of the scheme, the Water Resources Investigation & Development Department, GoWB has taken the important role for large-scale harvesting of rain water as well as arresting surface runoff for improvement and availability of precious water resources through construction and management of minor Irrigation structures. The objective of the "Jal Dharo-Jal Bharo" programme is to harvest rainwater in all kinds of water bodies, viz, tanks, ponds, reservoirs, canals and underground aquifers and to build citizens' awareness towards rainwater conservation and efficient water use in irrigation.

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Up to the year 2019 - 20, 3,14,522 water bodies/retention structures have been created/renovated, out of which 86,232 equivalent tanks have been created by WRI&DD, 2,28,225 water bodies have been created/renovated in convergence with P&RD Department and 65 ponds have been created/renovated by WRI&DD under MGNREGA.

Krishak Bondhu: In January 2019, the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal introduced the "Krishak Bandhu" Scheme with an aim to provide financial assistance to all Farmers of West Bengal for agricultural purposes and to provide social security to the farm families in the event of untimely death of the farmers. Recently, the scheme has been recast and renamed as "Krishak Bandhu (Natun)". The new scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal on 17th June 2021.

Direct benefit under the scheme includes financial assistance for cultivation purposes up to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per annum and a minimum of 4,000/- per annum receivable in two equal instalments during Kharif and Rabi seasons every year. Farmers with 1 acre or more of cultivable land are entitled to assistance of Rs 10,000/- per annum. Farmers with cultivable land holding of less than 1 acre will get assistance on a pro-rata basis, subject to a minimum assistance of Rs. 4,000/-. Under the "**Krishak Bandhu Death Benefit**" component of the scheme, in case of the death of a farmer between the ages of 18 to 60 years, the State Government provides a one-time lump sum grant of Rs. 2 lakhs to the family of the deceased to ensure social security to the bereaved family.

CONCLUSION

The welfare schemes launched by the Government of West Bengal show a strong commitment to improving the quality of life for its people through inclusive and sustainable development. By focusing on important areas such as agriculture, community involvement, education, and water conservation, these programs work together to support economic stability, social security, and environmental resilience. Initiatives like Krishak Bandhu have eased farmers' financial burdens. Amader Para Amader Samadhan has promoted participatory governance. The Student Internship Programme 2024 has opened new opportunities for youth. Jal Dharo Jal Bharo has encouraged sustainable resource management. Together, these efforts uplift communities at the grassroots level and create a foundation for a more self-reliant and forward-looking West Bengal.

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