



Free Electricity for Maharashtra Farmers

Why in News?

Maharashtra Chief Minister announced that the government will provide **free electricity to 80% of the state's farmers** by **December 2026**.

- The Chief Minister emphasised that the government is working to generate 16,000 MW of solar power under the [Mukhyamantri Saur Krishi Yojana](#) to ensure **12-hour daytime electricity**.

Key Points

- **Mukhyamantri Saur Krishi Yojana:**
 - This program is a Maharashtra government initiative aimed at promoting [solar-powered agriculture](#) through various schemes, including **off-grid solar pumps** and **decentralized solar power projects**.
 - The scheme aims to **decouple the irrigation sector from power subsidies**, ease the financial burden on other electricity consumers, **replace diesel pumps to curb pollution**, and promote **environmentally sustainable agriculture**.
- **Sub-schemes** included under this are:
 - **Mukhyamantri Saur Krushi Pump Yojana:**
 - This component aims to **provide solar-powered agricultural pumps**, especially in off-grid areas, to reduce dependence on diesel and ensure reliable daytime irrigation.
 - It targets the **installation of 100,000 off-grid solar pumps**, offering subsidies primarily to farmers with small landholdings.
 - **Mukhyamantri Saur Krushi Vahini Yojana (MSKVY) 2.0:**
 - The scheme aims to **solarize 30% of agricultural feeders** through the **installation of decentralized solar power projects** with a combined capacity of 7,000 MW.
 - It seeks to ensure **daytime electricity** for farmers, ease pressure on the conventional power grid, and encourage private sector investment in solar energy.

Sustainable Agriculture

- **About:** It is a **holistic farming approach** that meets current **food and fiber needs** while preserving resources for **future generations**.
 - It includes practices like **crop rotation**, [organic farming](#), and community-supported agriculture, ensuring **environmental health, economic viability, and social equity**.
- **Benefits:**
 - **Environmental Benefits:** Improves [soil health](#), conserves **water**, protects **biodiversity**, and reduces the **carbon footprint**.
 - **Economic Benefits:** Ensures **long-term productivity**, lowers **costs**, creates **market opportunities**, and enhances **climate resilience**.
 - **Social Benefits:** Produces **healthier food**, generates **employment**, and strengthens [food security](#).
 - **Resilience to Climate Change:** **Organic farming, conservation tillage, and**

agroforestry **sequester carbon**, **reduce emissions**, and boost climate resilience.

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