



Underutilization of Operation Greens Scheme

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Why in News?

Recently, a [Parliamentary Standing Committee \(PSC\)](#) on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing tabled a report highlighting the underperformance [Operation Greens \(OG\) scheme](#).

- The scheme's limited success raises concerns about the government's ability to address the challenges of volatile agricultural markets and post-harvest losses.

What are the Key Findings of the PSC Report?

- **Underutilisation of Budget:** Only 34% (Rs 59.44 crore) of the Rs 173.40 crore allocated for the 2024-25 financial year has been spent by October 2024.
 - **65.73% of the allocated budget remains unspent**, which raises concerns about meeting expenditure guidelines for the remaining fiscal year.
- **Limited Impact on Price Stabilization:** Despite the scheme's objective to stabilize crop prices, **onion farmers in Maharashtra are facing a price crash**, with onion **prices falling by nearly 50%**.
 - **Potato shortages** are being experienced in states like Odisha and Jharkhand, exacerbated by **production dips** in West Bengal due to weather conditions.
- **Policy Inconsistencies:** The government's inconsistent policies, like the **export ban and its extension**, and the imposition of export duties, have frustrated onion farmers, affecting their ability to secure fair prices.
- **Challenges in Achieving Scheme's Mandate:** The scheme has **struggled to meet its dual objectives**: ensuring farmers receive fair prices while maintaining affordable prices for consumers.
 - The **underfunding and lack of progress** highlight the challenges in stabilizing agricultural markets and addressing infrastructure gaps in [post-harvest management](#).

What is the Operation Greens Scheme?

- **About:** Operation Greens, a **central sector scheme** launched in 2018, under the [Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana](#), aims to stabilize the prices of **perishable crops** and enhance farmers' earnings by drawing inspiration from ["Operation Flood \(White Revolution\)"](#).
- **Objectives:**
 - **Long-Term Interventions:** Enhance farmers' value realization through support for production clusters and [Farmers Producer Organisations \(FPOs\)](#).
 - Reduce [post-harvest losses](#) via farm gate infrastructure, agri-logistics, and storage facilities.
 - Boost [food processing](#) and value addition by linking production clusters with the market.
 - **Short-Term Interventions:** **Protect growers from distress sales** and reduce post-harvest losses.
- **Implementation:** OG is implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, with funding provided by the [National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India \(NAFED\)](#).

- **Expansion of Scope:** The OG scheme initially focused on **Tomato, Onion, and Potato (TOP)**.
 - However, as part of the **15th Financial Commission Cycle (2021-26)**, its scope expanded to include **22 perishable crops** such as **fruits** (e.g., Mango, Banana, Grapes), **vegetables** (e.g., Carrot, Beans, Okra), **gourd family** (e.g., Bottle Gourd, Bitter Gourd), and other crops like **Garlic, Ginger, and Shrimp**.

Read more: [Food Inflation: Trends, Factors and Control Measures](#)

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