



Krishi Sakhi in UP

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** has decided to **train women** as '**Krishi Sakhi**' to promote **natural farming**.

Key Points

- **About Krishi Sakhi Scheme :**
 - This initiative formally **recognises the role of women in agriculture**, and is a strong step towards making them **economically and socially self-reliant**.
 - **Selection Process & Role:**
 - Those women will be selected as 'Krishi Sakhi' who will:
 - Be a **local resident** .
 - Be associated with **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** or be **active in agricultural work** .
 - Have a minimum of **primary education (literacy is compulsory)**.
 - **Their role includes:**
 - Raising **awareness among farmers** about natural farming benefits.
 - Receiving and sharing training on **organic inputs and seed treatment**.
 - Monitoring agricultural clusters and reporting farmer issues to **Krishi Vigyan Kendras**.
 - Promoting **collective farming** through women's groups.
 - **Training and Honorarium:**
 - These women will be given regular training by **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)** on **topics like natural farming, organic product production, experimental methods, disease control** .
 - During the training they will be provided with **field demonstrations , visual aids, and toolkits** .
 - **Two Bio-input Research Centres** will be established in each district .
 - 'Krishi Sakhis' will be paid **an honorarium of Rs 5,000 per month, which** will become **a source of fixed income** for rural women .
 - Additionally, **performance-based incentives** may also be given in some areas.

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Natural Farming

- Natural farming is a **chemical-free agricultural method** based on locally available resources.
- It promotes **traditional indigenous methods** that free producers from dependence on external inputs.
- The major focuses of natural farming are **on-farm biomass recycling with biomass mulching**, on-farm **use of indigenous cow dung and urine**, **pest management through diversity**, on-farm **vegetable mixing and exclusion of all synthetic chemical** inputs directly or indirectly.
- Since no synthetic chemicals are used in natural farming, it is less hazardous to health .
- These foods have high nutritional content and provide better health benefits.
- Natural Farming aims to make farming viable and aspirational by reducing costs and risks, increasing the net income of farmers as a result of uniform yield and income from intercropping .

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