



MP Reintroduces Bhavantar Scheme

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government has reintroduced the Bhavantar Scheme (**Price Deficiency Payment Scheme**) to provide **price compensation to soybean farmers** facing market losses and crop damage, ensuring fair prices and farmer welfare.

Key Points

- **About:** The scheme aims to bridge the gap between **market prices and the Minimum Support Price (MSP)**, ensuring that farmers do not face financial losses.
 - With a commitment to support farmers, the state government plans to compensate for losses caused by **market fluctuations** or crop diseases like **yellow mosaic disease**.
- **Eligibility and Registration:** Farmers must register their crops under the Bhavantar Scheme to receive compensation for any **selling price below the MSP**, with the state government paying the price difference directly to their account.
 - MSP for Soybean is ₹5,328 per quintal, but many farmers are currently selling at prices below this amount.
- **Significance:** Madhya Pradesh, accounting for **nearly 50% of India's total soybean production**, is the country's leading soybean producer, earning it the title of the **soybean bowl of India**.
- **Challenges:** Despite the significant contribution, farmers face immense challenges, with **poor market returns**, **natural disasters**, and disease affecting their livelihood.
 - The earlier implementation of the Bhavantar scheme (2017) faced several challenges, including **delayed payments and an oversupply of crops**, which led to a sharp decline in prices and ultimately harmed farmers.

Soybean Crop

- Soybean is a **Kharif crop** in India.
- Soybean (*Glycine max*) is the **world's most important seed legume**, which contributes **25% to the global edible oil**, about two-thirds of the world's protein concentrate for livestock feeding and is a valuable ingredient in formulated feeds for poultry and fish.
- It is predominantly grown as a **rainfed crop** in Vertisols and associated soils with an average crop season rainfall of 900 mm.
- **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka** are the major Producing States in India.