

(c) & (d): The Government has constituted and operationalised the Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) to be instituted in NABARD as part of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY). The Fund, with an initial corpus of about Rs 20,000 crore, was announced in the Union Budget 2016-17 which has been hiked by another Rs. 20,000 crore during 2017-18, taking the total fund size to Rs 40,000 crore. The Government has also announced a dedicated micro irrigation fund which will be set up in NABARD to achieve the goal, 'per drop more crop', with an initial corpus of Rs 5,000 crore.

The Crops Insurance Scheme which was started in Kharif 2016 viz. the Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) will insulate our farmers from vagaries of weather thus reducing hardships faced by our famers on this account. The coverage of this scheme is proposed to be increased to 40% cropped area in 2017-18 and 50% in 2018-19. PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. In addition to this Government is implementing e-NAM for remunerative prices of agricultural produce.

The Government has also increased the flow of institutional agriculture credit from Rs. 9,00,000 crore to Rs.10,00,000 crore during 2017-18.

As per existing Foreign Director Investment Policy, FDI up to 100 percent is permitted under automatic route in specified activities of the agriculture and allied sectors mentioned below. Further, 100 percent FDI is also allowed under automatic route in the 'Plantation sector' namely tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom, palm oil tree and olive oil tree.

- a) Floriculture, Horticulture, Apiculture and Cultivation of Vegetables & Mushrooms under controlled conditions;
- b) Development and Production of seeds and planting material;
- c) Animal Husbandry (including breeding of dogs), Pisciculture, Aquaculture; and
- d) Services related to agro and allied sectors.
