

## **Odisha Govt. To Bear Farmers' Share of Crop Insurance Premium To Further Farmer Empowerment**

**Bhubaneswar:** In a significant move to bolster the agriculture sector and provide financial security to farmers in Odisha, the state government has decided to bear the farmer's share of crop insurance premium for the Kharif season 2023. This decision comes as part of the government's commitment to supporting sustainable agricultural practices and ensuring the welfare of farmers in the state.

The primary objective of the crop insurance is to foster sustainable agricultural production and provide financial support to farmers who face crop losses or damage due to unforeseen events. Earlier, farmers were required to pay a nominal premium, typically 2 percent or 1.5 percent of the Sum Insured for Kharif and Rabi seasons, respectively. However for commercial crops like cotton, Ginger and turmeric 5% premium of sum insured is paid for both Kharif and Rabi seasons. The remaining premium amount was shared equally between the Central and State governments as subsidy.

Starting from this Kharif season, farmers in the state will no longer have to bear the premium cost as Odisha Government has decided to take on the farmers' share of the premium for the notified crops. It will greatly benefit the small and marginal farmers who are most vulnerable to the uncertainties of nature. For Kharif 2023, the crops insured include Paddy, Maize, Groundnut, Ragi, Cotton, Arhar, Ginger, and Turmeric.

Farmers can enrol through the nearest Jana Seva Kendra, Bank, Insurance Office, or Insurance Agent prior to 31st July 2023 to avail the benefit. They can also call at Ama Krushi's toll-free number 155333 for more information. An amount of Rs 1 will be debited as token from their bank accounts to validate the enrolment. However, the premium subsidy provided by the Odisha Government is limited to 2 hectares per farmer.

Officials from the agricultural department have emphasized that this progressive step is in line with the state government's continuous efforts to uplift the agricultural sector and ensure the well-being of farmers. By encouraging more farmers to take part in the scheme, the state aims to strengthen the agricultural backbone and drive economic growth in rural areas.

As the state prepares to implement the new initiative, the authorities are ensuring a streamlined process for enrolment. They are actively working to create awareness among farmers regarding the benefits of the scheme and the support provided by the state government to cover their premium costs.

The decision has been widely appreciated by farmers' organizations and stakeholders in the agricultural domain. They believe that such initiatives are crucial in addressing the challenges faced by farmers and will pave the way for a more sustainable and prosperous agrarian economy in Odisha.