Why this Handbook?

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India, has been implementing various schemes and programmes for the benefit of farmers through State Governments. The Guidelines of each of these schemes and circulars/instructions issued thereunder provide relevant details on the type and extent of benefits for different components promoted under these schemes. Guidelines and other details of various programmes and schemes have been made available at http://agricoop.nic.in/guidelines.html and http://agricoop.nic.in/programmescheme.html. A searchable database of schemes and programmes based on theme, scheme and pattern of assistance can be seen at http://agricoop.nic.in/schemesinfo.html.

In some cases, different schemes provide similar benefit for the same component of agricultural operation. For instance, farmers in different districts of a State could avail subsidy for seeds for the same crop under National Food Security Mission, NMOOP etc. To demystify the subsidy administration and to make it simpler for extension workers & farmers to understand the admissibility criteria and financial norms for subsidies under different schemes, this Handbook has been conceived by arranging information component-wise rather than in terms of schemes programmes.

The Handbook has been prepared by categorizing various activities in 11 different themes viz. Soil Health, Soil Conservation & Fertilizers, Seeds, Irrigation, Training & Extension for Farmers, Mechanization & Technology, Agricultural Credit, Agricultural Insurance, Plant Protection, Horticulture, Agricultural Marketing and Integrated Farming. Besides this, broad suggestions on practical aspects of each of these themes have also been included. Each theme thus gets divided into three aspects viz ‘what to do?’, ‘what can you get?’ and ‘whom to contact?’
The Government of India schemes are broadly of two types from the point of view of extent implementation.

**For Entire Country:**
Such schemes include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (subject to qualifying criteria for the States), National e-Governance Plan-Agriculture, National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology etc. Under such nation-wide schemes, the State Governments select farmers as per the Operational Guidelines within the allocated funds and disburse financial assistance to such selected beneficiaries.

**For Specific Areas/Crops/Districts:**
All other schemes fall in this category. These include National Food Security Mission, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Cotton Technology Mission, Jute and Mesta Technology and Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI). In order to check whether a particular scheme is applicable in your District, please visit [http://dacnet.nic.in/schemes.aspx](http://dacnet.nic.in/schemes.aspx). The beneficiaries under these schemes also are selected as per norms and based on availability of budget.

The Farmer Friendly Handbook lists out only the components of assistance provided by the Government of India as per the Schemes applicable in the XII Plan period. There are quite a few States which provide financial assistance over and above the norms of Government of India depending on the priorities in any agro climatic condition and the level of agricultural development in any region. Quite a few States had earlier brought out similar booklets specific to their States. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) will provide financial assistance under ATMA Cafeteria for publication of latest version in vernacular languages (with some copies in English) for each State after including the State component of such assistance, so that the farmers can come to know the total quantum of assistance available to them under each theme/component. Till then, the farmers could approach the nearest office of Agriculture/Horticulture Department in the State to know about such additional assistance (if any) provided by the respective State Governments.