



IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Newsletter May 2026

Edition Volume IAI/26/5



IAI leadership met with Shri Atish Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India at Krishi Bhawan New Delhi

The Irrigation Association of India (IAI) recently participated in a high-level meeting chaired by Shri Atish Chandra, Hon'ble Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, on PMKSY-Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) reforms and key issues concerning the Micro Irrigation sector.

During the meeting, IAI highlighted critical industry concerns including revision of PDMC unit cost norms, timely release of pending subsidy payments, strengthening of fund flow mechanisms, and improving transparency in scheme implementation.

IAI also presented innovative solutions including the applicability of the RBI-backed CBDC-based subsidy framework for PDMC, along with a real-time monitoring dashboard for better visibility of sanctions, fund disbursement, and pending liabilities. The Hon'ble Secretary appreciated these initiatives and advised further discussions with relevant stakeholders for effective implementation.

Irrigation Association of India (IAI) in discussions with Hon'ble Minister Govt. of Rajasthan



Irrigation Association of India (IAI) Rajasthan Chapter under Chairman Dr. R. P. Yadav met with Shri Kirodi Lal Meena Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Rajasthan to apprise him of urgent issues concerning the implementation of the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component of the Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Scheme in the state. The meeting was attended by several distinguished members and industry leaders associated with the micro-irrigation and agricultural sector. Being one of India's most water-stressed states, must continue to prioritize micro-irrigation as a strategic intervention for enhancing water-use efficiency, improving farm productivity, and strengthening climate resilience.

Key Highlights:

- Initiation of approved targets under Annual Action Plan 2026-2027
- 24X7 Operationalization of Raj Kisan Portal
- Timely release of state share and "top-up" subsidy
- Timely Utilization of 1st installment under RKVY Scheme especially utilization of funds allotted under PDMC
- Release of pending payment to Micro-Irrigation companies 2024-2025 & 2025-2026

Irrigation Association of India (IAI) welcomes Shri R. Vinoth Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture Govt. of Tamil Nadu and presents industry challenges and concerns



Irrigation Association of India met with Shri R. Vinoth Hon'ble. Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and presented a letter outlining key industry challenges and concerns in the state. During the meeting representatives explained the practical difficulties and implementation challenges being faced by stakeholders under the current scheme framework. The R/APC and the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister acknowledged the concerns raised and assured that the issues would be examined thoroughly. It was conveyed that the matter would be reviewed at the appropriate level, and a suitable response would be communicated in due course.

Irrigation Association of India (IAI) in discussions with Shri Jenu Devan, IAS, Managing Director Gujarat Green Revolution Company (GGRC)

Irrigation Association of India Gujarat Chapter under Chairman Arun Virungama and Co-Chairs Shri Rakeshbhai & Girdharbhai met with Shri Jenu Devan, IAS, Managing Director Gujarat Green Revolution Company (GGRC); Dr. T Natarajan Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), Shri Sandip Kumar Secretary Finance Department (Economic Affairs) in Gandhinagar. Shri Jitubhai Savjibhai Vaghani Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

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Key Highlights: -

- CEO-MIS Suppliers, GGRC and Agriculture Department officers to discuss the scope and long-term plan for smooth implementation of MIS in Gujarat Meeting of
- Release of 1st installment under RKVY-PDMC Scheme
- Timely Release of state share & Top Up subsidy
- Utilization of Revolving Fund
- Price Revision
- Release of Pending payments to MI companies

"IAI Intervention Leads to Government of India Review Meeting on Pending PDMC Subsidy Liabilities"

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, convened a review meeting on 2nd June 2026 under the chairmanship of Smt. Asha Sota, Director, RFS, to assess pending Micro Irrigation subsidy liabilities across States and discuss a roadmap for clearance of outstanding dues.

The meeting was attended by representatives from major Micro Irrigation implementing States, who presented their respective action plans for clearing pending liabilities. States including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal shared timelines and funding mechanisms for settlement of dues.

The Government of India emphasized timely liquidation of pending liabilities, utilization of approved allocations under Annual Action Plans (AAP), and submission of detailed state-wise roadmaps for clearance of outstanding payments. States were also advised to prioritize clearing existing liabilities before taking up new commitments.

IAI appreciates the proactive intervention of the Government of India in addressing the long-pending subsidy issues, which will help restore industry confidence, improve liquidity, and further strengthen the adoption of Micro Irrigation technologies across the country.

IAI Advocacy Leads to Constitution of Committee for Revision of Micro Irrigation Cost Norms under PDMC

F. No. 17-1/2026-RFS-III (e-191772)
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(RFS Division)

Krish Bhawan, New Delhi
Date: 02 June, 2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Constitution of Committee to review the Unit Cost of Micro irrigation systems under Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)-PM RKVY scheme.

The undersigned is directed to intimate that the following shall be the Committee to review the unit cost of Micro irrigation systems under Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme: -

1.	Joint Secretary (RFS), Deptt. of Agriculture & FW	Chair
2.	Commissioner (CAD), Deptt. of Water Resources, RD&CR	Member
3.	Project Director, Water Technology Centre, Indian Council of Agricultural Research	Member
4.	Principal Director, Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET)	Member
5.	Director (MIDW), Deptt. of Agriculture & FW	Member
6.	Chief General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Member
7.	Director (Agriculture/Horticulture) – Gujarat/Tamil Nadu/Assam/Madhya Pradesh/West Bengal	Member
8.	Representative of Irrigation Association of India	Member
9.	Director (RFS), Deptt. of Agriculture & FW	Member Secretary

2. The committee may examine the unit cost of micro irrigation systems under the PDMC scheme and suggest revision thereon if needed.

3. The committee may submit its recommendations within three months of the issue of this order.

Continuing its advocacy efforts towards strengthening the Micro Irrigation ecosystem, the Irrigation Association of India (IAI) has taken up the critical issue of revision of PDMC unit cost norms with the Government of India.

Recognizing the concerns highlighted by IAI regarding increased input costs and the need for updated cost benchmarks, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, has constituted a committee to review the Unit Cost of Micro Irrigation Systems under the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme.

The Committee comprises representatives from various key institutions including the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Water Resources Department, ICAR, CIPET, NABARD, State Governments, and Irrigation Association of India (IAI). It has been mandated to examine the existing unit cost norms and suggest revisions, wherever required, to ensure that the scheme remains aligned with prevailing market realities.

India takes a 'huge hit' on tax revenue to keep fuel prices from surging during the Iran war



The Union Government has reduced central excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre to contain rising fuel prices and protect consumers amid global energy supply disruptions. While the move is expected to provide relief from inflationary pressures, it may impact government revenues, widen fiscal deficit, and pose challenges to economic growth.

(Source: <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/03/27/india-fuel-tax-cut-oil-prices-iran-war-impact.html>)

Shri C. R. Patil Hon'ble. Minister Water Resources, Govt. of India announces the 9th India International Water Week at the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi

Shri C. R. Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Govt of India announced the 9th edition of India International Water Week (IIWW-2026) - a premier platform bringing together policymakers, researchers and industry leaders with an aim to address global water challenges, promote sustainable development and showcase innovative solutions at a launching ceremony held at the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi. The five-day event will be held from 22nd to 26th September 2026 on the theme "Climate Resilient Water Management" and will feature a conference and an exhibition along with seminars, panel discussions, side events and a cultural program.



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(Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2254585®=3&lang=2>)

World Bank's 2030 Water Resources Group (WRG) along with Department of Horticulture and Food Processing, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh hosts a One-Day workshop under the Uttar Pradesh Micro-Irrigation Project (UPMIP)

World Bank's 2030 Water Resources Group (WRG) along with Department of Horticulture and Food

Processing, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh hosted a one-day workshop on 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) –Enabled, GPS based Field Assurance Tools' under the Uttar Pradesh Micro-Irrigation Project (UPMIP). The workshop brought together 135 micro irrigation companies, five third-party verification agencies, and project implementation teams with sessions focused on standardizing processes and adopting best practices.



Uttar Pradesh has been demonstrating innovative applications of Information, Communication & Technology (ICT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in strengthening systems that connect resources to the people who depend on them most. AI-enabled, GPS-based field assurance tools are being deployed under the Uttar Pradesh Micro-Irrigation Project (UPMIP) to validate installations, confirm area coverage, and strengthen transparency in subsidy-linked processes, reducing discrepancies and ensuring benefits actually reach farmers.

(Source: <https://11nk.dev/i4cjagt>)



Andhra Pradesh tops the nation in Micro-Irrigation with a record 1.26 Lakh Ha

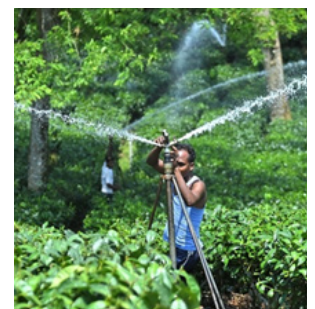
The state of Andhra Pradesh has been ranked amongst the top-performing states in the country with regard to the adoption and implementation of micro-irrigation technologies. The state has successfully implemented drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in approximately 1.26 lakh hectares, surpassing both annual targets of the state, as well inter-state targets. With

1.05 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation in the state of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh has out-performed many other states. Micro-Irrigation is a water-efficient technology promoted under the centrally supported RKVY-PDMC Scheme with benefits including improvement in productivity; increase in farmers' incomes and a reduction in water use. Micro-Irrigation is being actively promoted in the water stressed state of Andhra Pradesh under the Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project (APMIP) – a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) dedicated to the promotion of micro-irrigation technologies.

(Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/ap-tops-nation-in-micro-irrigation-with-record-1-26-lakh-ha-coverage/articleshow/130007175.cms>)

Shri Barinder Kumar Goyal, Hon'ble. Minister of Soil & Water Conservation, Mines & Geology, and Water Resources inaugurated a central pivot irrigation system at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) in Ludhiana

Shri Barinder Kumar Goyal Hon'ble. Minister Soil & Water Conservation, Mines & Geology, and Water Resources, Govt of Punjab inaugurated a Central



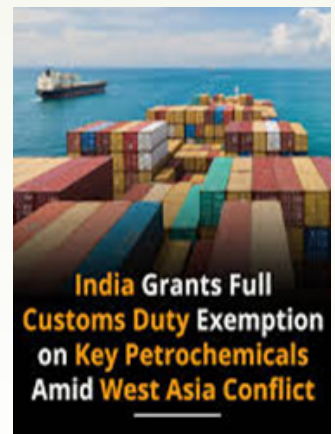
Pivot Irrigation System at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) in Ludhiana. The installation represents a fully automated irrigation solution with inverted sprinkler systems mounted on a 60-metre-long arm revolving around a central pivot point and irrigating a three-acre circular area without any manual labour. The irrigation system is an excellent model of precision and automated irrigation for the farming community in the state - improving water use efficiency and enhancing crop yields.

(Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/goyal-inaugurates-north-india-first-central-pivot-irrigation-system-pau-10626994/>)

In a targeted relief, the Government grants full customs duty exemption on critical petrochemical products in view of ongoing conflict in West Asia

The Ministry of Finance, Government of India has announced a full customs duty exemption on about 40 petrochemical products in view of the ongoing conflict in West Asia and the consequent disruptions in global supply chains. The exemptions are valid till 30th June, 2026 and are expected to benefit dependent sectors including petrochemical feedstock and intermediates, plastics, packaging, textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, automotive components and other manufacturing segments. The relief measure is temporary, targeted and has been taken in order to ensure the continued availability of critical petrochemical inputs for the domestic industry, reduce cost pressures on downstream sectors, and safeguard supply chains in the country.

(Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx->



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NATIONAL NEWS

Why monsoon-dependent India still struggles to scale micro-irrigation



With IMD's southwest monsoon forecast, efficient water resource management will be crucial for meeting agricultural demands. Under the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme, the Government of India provides financial assistance for promoting Micro Irrigation, with Gujarat's GGRC Model emerging as a successful example for large-scale adoption. The model integrates farmers, suppliers, dealers, inspection agencies, along with technical training, agronomical support, and after-sales services.

(Source: https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/monsoon-india-imd-forecast-micro-drip-irrigation-punjab-gujarat-126042500477_1.html)

Yogi Government Boosts Farmers' Income Through Drip Irrigation & Sugarcane Reforms

The Directorate of Sugarcane, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has been promoting drip irrigation technolo-

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gies amongst sugarcane farmers in the state of Uttar Pradesh. According to the sugarcane department drip irrigation systems have been installed across 73,078 hectares of sugarcane over the past nine years. Farmers adopting this method have seen up to a 25% increase in yields and up to a 50% increase in water savings. The steady increase in the adoption of water-efficient micro-irrigation technologies in the state represents the continued commitment of both the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath as well as the states government.



(Source: <https://www.freepressjournal.in/uttar-pradesh/yogi-government-boosts-farmers-income-through-drip-irrigation-sugarcane-reforms>)

Indore to host meeting of BRICS agriculture ministers in June



With India hosting the 18th BRICS Summit 2026 under the BRICS presidency and chairmanship on 12th – 13th September 2026, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Hon'ble. Union Agriculture Minister and Shri Mohan Yadav Hon'ble. Chief Minister Madhya Pradesh reviewed the preparations of an upcoming ministerial meeting and meeting of BRICS's agriculture working group in Indore. The 5 day event aims to facilitate high-level discussions on food security, farmer welfare, nutrition, climate-resilient and smart agriculture, international agricultural trade, supply chains, digital agriculture, research, knowledge exchange, artificial intelligence, machine learning and robotics.

(Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/indore-to-host-meeting-of-brics-agriculture-ministers-in-june/articleshow/130753211.cms>)

Why is the Strait of Hormuz crisis pushing up plastic prices?

Global chemical prices are surging at their fastest pace in nearly two decades as the war in Iran disrupts production flows across the Middle East and Asia raising the risk of supply shortages for Europe from April onwards. The crisis is triggering structural shifts across the petrochemical and plastics value chain. A premium for secure energy and chemical supply is emerging, likely to keep chemicals and plastics prices elevated through 2026. Higher crude oil and LNG-linked gas prices will further undermine the cost competitiveness of Asian and European producers, accelerating potential plant shutdowns. Europe is already seeing acute impacts. In polyethylene (PE), spot prices have doubled at the low end since late February, with LDPE prices now exceeding levels seen during the 2022 Russia-Ukraine crisis and moving towards historical highs.



(Source: <https://investmentguruindia.com/newsdetail/gujarat-aggressively-expanding-modern-irrigation-methods-to-boost-productivity707129>)

Uttar Pradesh set to emerge as a major hub for premium fruit production and exports; Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Participates in “Fruit Horizon 2026” in Lucknow



Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Hon'ble. Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare outlined a roadmap to make India No. 1 in fruit exports at the 'Fruit Horizon 2026 – Globalizing India's Fruit Value Chain'. Addressing participants at the national conference organised at ICAR–Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) in Lucknow, the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development highlighted key pathways to achieving the states vision recommending more a holistic approach to development including strengthening production, improving quality, increasing shelf life, food processing, logistics and export standards. Additionally, the Hon'ble Minister encouraged scientific institutions, exporters, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority

(APEDA) etc to work together to achieve the state governments vision of Globalizing India's Fruit Value Chains.

(Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2258806®=3&lang=1>)

Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) in collaboration with Gujarat Green Revolution Company (GGRC) and DCM Shriram Foundation unveils a report on 'Scaling Climate-smart Micro-irrigation in Gujarat – Policy & Technology Synergies'

The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) in collaboration with Gujarat Green Revolution Company (GGRC) and DCM Shriram Foundation has released a report on 'Scaling Climate-smart Micro-irrigation in Gujarat- Policy and Technology Synergies'. The report an outcome of detailed consultations with key stakeholders including farmers, micro-irrigation companies, technology suppliers, state agricultural research institutions and the state government examine the fundamental reasons driving the adoption and sustained use of micro-irrigation technologies in the state of Gujarat. The study while mapping nine central and state policies that collectively support MI expansion offers practitioners and policy makers with targetable



(Source: <https://www.ceew.in/publications/how-can-micro-irrigation-boost-water-use-efficiency-in-gujarat>)

Smart Irrigation is Transforming Farming and Saving Water



Farming is changing rapidly, and one of the biggest drivers of this shift is smart irrigation. Micro-irrigation systems are becoming more advanced, helping farmers use water more efficiently while improving crop quality and yields. With the integration of automation, sensors, and digital tools, irrigation is no longer just a routine task it is now a precise and data-driven process. Modern micro-irrigation systems allow farmers to control when and how much water is delivered to crops. Through automated scheduling and real-time monitoring, these systems ensure consistent water distribution.

(Source: <https://agricultoutlook.com/smart-irrigation-is-transforming-farming-and-saving-water/>)

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How Farmers Are Producing More Food with Less Water Through Smart Irrigation Technology

Farmers in the U.S. and Canada are producing more food per unit of water than ever, a development attributed to the deployment of sustainable agriculture practices and cutting-edge technologies. A scientific study titled "From Source to Solution: Advancing Water Stewardship in the Non-Road Sector" examines the utility of technologies in supporting water stewardship in agriculture, construction, utility and industries. In the agricultural sector, technologies such as drip and variable rate irrigation (VRI), soil moisture sensors and smart controllers are helping farmers reduce water use without impacting crop yields. Such technological advancements are enabling farming communities to achieve significantly greater output while using substantially less water.



(Source: <https://www.aem.org/news/how-farmers-are-producing-more-food-with-less-water-through-smart-irrigation-technology>)

Dreaming Big in Ethiopia

The Government of Ethiopia along with Ministry of Water and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands, Ministry of Finance, Petroleum and Energy is implanting and the ambitious



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Distributed Renewable Energy and Agriculture Modalities (DREAM) project, a pioneering project aimed at building the continent’s largest mini-grid powered irrigation systems. Under the project, solar powered mini grids will be deployed to provide reliable, affordable and year-round electricity to power large-scale irrigation systems, including wells, pumps and distribution networks. The mini grids will also allow surrounding local community’s to access surplus electricity. The Government of Ethiopia’s DREAM initiative is a milestone in the global transition to clean energy providing energy for small-holders to irrigate their crops as well as transforming village’s telecommunications systems, medical facilities, schools and homes with access to clean and renewable energy. Further, the initiative hopes to serve as a blueprint for similar projects, not just in Ethiopia but also across sub-Saharan Africa.

(<https://energyalliance.org/grids-of-the-future/>)

Inside Hotspot AG, the Central Valley Firm Teaching the world to farm Smarter



HotSpot AG hosted a session on “Automation and Fertigation” at the Advanced School on Micro-Irrigation for Crop Production for specialists from Mexico, Argentina, Chile and Italy in April 2026. Participants visited HotSpot’s training centre and Nichols Farms for theoretical sessions and hands-on experience on automation and fertigation thereby bridging classroom strategy with real field operations across pumps, valves and irrigation systems. HotSpot AG retrofits legacy irrigation equipment with automation-ready valves, engine stations and sensors. The company also provides fertigation skids — pre-assembled units that combine fertilizer injectors, pumps, valves and controllers into a single system. Automated micro-irrigation systems equipped with fertigation units technology injects nutrients, acid or chemicals directly into irrigation lines for

more precise delivery to plant roots, improving fertilizer efficiency, reducing labor costs and boosting crop yields.

(Source: <https://thebusinessjournal.com/hotspot-ag-hanford-farm-automation-education/>)

About Irrigation Association of India

Irrigation Association of India (IAI) is an apex industry body established in 1999, representing Micro Irrigation System (MIS) manufacturing companies in India. It is a not-for-profit organization and is working towards the successful implementation of Micro Irrigation in India for the benefit of farmers.

IAI has a registered office at Pune, Maharashtra, India and corporate office at New Delhi. IAI is closely working with the central Government of India and the State Governments. The association has a strong presence in states through IAI State Chapters at Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and North Eastern Region.

What we do

- Policy Advocacy
- Knowledge Dissemination
- Capacity Building
- Convene meeting with Central/State govt. departments to apprise the industry issues
- Sectoral Conference/Workshop to promote Micro Irrigation



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