4.Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana - Economy

Big announcement under PM Fasal Bima Yojana - Crop insurance to cover losses due to wild animal attacks, paddy inundation from 2026 kharif season. The revised Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), effective Kharif 2026, introduces add-on coverage for crop loss due to wild animal attacks and restores paddy inundation protection to address localized risks. It also mandates technology-driven claim reporting via the Crop Insurance App within 72 hours using geo-tagged photos to ensure transparency.

Revised Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) - Kharif 2026 Update

1. Context

The Ministry of Agriculture has announced significant revisions to the PMFBY, which will be implemented starting from the Kharif 2026 season. These changes aim to address long-standing farmer grievances regarding localized calamities and wildlife conflicts.

2. Key Reforms Introduced

A. Coverage for Wild Animal Attacks (New Add-on)

Inclusion - Crop loss due to attacks by wild animals has been officially included as the fifth add-on cover under the category of localized risks.

Implementation Mechanism

State Role - State governments are empowered to notify the specific list of wild animals (e.g., Elephants, Wild Boars, Nilgai, Deer, Monkeys) relevant to their region.

Vulnerability Mapping - States will identify and notify vulnerable districts based on historical data of animal incursions.

B. Restoration of Paddy Inundation Cover

Reintroduction - The specific cover for "Paddy Inundation" (submergence) has been restored as a localized calamity.

Background - This provision was previously removed in 2018 but has been brought back to support farmers in flood-prone and coastal states where heavy rains and river overflows frequently cause prolonged submergence of paddy fields.

C. Technology-Driven Mandatory Reporting

Timeline - Farmers are now mandated to report crop losses within 72 hours of the incident.

Platform - Reporting must be done exclusively via the Crop Insurance App.

Evidence - The process requires uploading geo-tagged photos of the damaged fields.
Objective - To ensure a quick, transparent, and tamper-proof claim processing system, reducing delays and fraud.

3. Strategic Benefits of the Revisions

Mitigation of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC)

Financial Buffer - By compensating for crop loss, the scheme reduces the financial stress on farmers living in forest-fringe areas.
Ecological Protection - It is expected to decrease retaliatory actions against wildlife. currently, farmers often resort to lethal countermeasures (poison, electric fences, traps, fireworks) to save crops, leading to the injury or death of protected species like Elephants.
Addressed Specific Threats - It covers high-damage animals like Monkeys, which cause millions of dollars in damage annually to high-value crops like apples in Himachal Pradesh.[1]

B. Enhanced Agricultural Resilience[2]

Climate Adaptation - Supports ecology-sensitive farming in areas where climate change is exacerbating wildlife pressures (animals moving out of forests due to resource scarcity[3]).
Timely Justice - The shift to app-based, geo-tagged reporting forces a move away from manual delays to digital speed.

4. Static Framework - About PMFBY

Inception and Vision

Launch - Launched in 2016.
Model - Based on the "One Nation–One Scheme" principle.
Predecessors - It replaced the erstwhile National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and the Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).

B. Core Objectives

Financial Protection - To offer cover against unforeseen crop loss due to natural disasters (drought, flood, hail), pests, and diseases.
Income Stabilization - To ensure farmers stay in the profession by stabilizing their income.
Modernization - To encourage the adoption of innovative and modern agricultural practices.
Credit Worthiness - To ensure credit flow to the agriculture sector and protect farmers from production risks.

C. Eligibility and Crops Covered

Farmers - Open to all farmers (Owners, Tenant farmers, and Sharecroppers) growing notified crops in notified areas.

Crops

Food Crops - Cereals, Millets, Pulses.

Oilseeds - Groundnut, Soybean, etc. (Requires historical yield data).

Annual Commercial/Horticultural Crops - Cotton, Sugarcane, Potato, etc.

erennial Horticultural Crops - Covered under pilot projects (requires approved yield-estimation methods).

5. Premium Structure and Subsidy Sharing

The scheme follows a distinct cost-sharing model between the Farmer, the Centre, and the State.

Category	Details
Farmer's Premium (Fixed)	**Kharif Crops -** 2% of Sum Insured **Rabi Crops -** 1.5% of Sum Insured **Commercial/Horticultural -** 5% of Sum Insured
Govt. Subsidy Sharing	**Normal States -** 50% Centre - 50% State **North-East & Himalayan States -** 90% Centre - 10% State
Subsidy Cap (Centre)	The Central Government's liability is capped at - 30% of Gross Premium for Non-Irrigated areas. 25% of Gross Premium for Irrigated areas. *(Any excess premium beyond this cap is borne by the State Govt).*

6. Comprehensive Risk Coverage

The PMFBY covers risks at different stages of the crop cycle

Prevented Sowing/Planting - Covers up to 25% of the Sum Insured if farmers are unable to sow due to adverse weather conditions early in the season.

Standing Crop (Yield Losses) - Covers non-preventable risks like drought, dry spells, floods, inundation, pests, diseases, landslides, natural fires, lightning, storms, hailstorms, and cyclones.

Post-Harvest Losses - Coverage is available for up to 14 days after harvesting for crops kept in "cut and spread" condition to dry, specifically against unseasonal rains, cyclones, and hailstorms.

Localized Calamities - Insurance against isolated risks affecting specific farms (not the whole area), such as hailstorms, landslides, and inundation (restored for paddy).

Wild Animal Attacks (New) - Compensation for damage by state-notified species.

7. Conclusion

The inclusion of wildlife attacks and the restoration of paddy inundation coverage mark a significant evolution in India's crop insurance landscape. By integrating ecological realities (wildlife conflict) and technological solutions (geo-tagging), the revised PMFBY aims to build a more equitable and responsive safety net for the Indian farmer.

Source - https - //indianexpress.com/article/india/big-announcement-under-pm-fasal-bima-yojana-crop-insurance-to-cover-losses-due-to-wild-animal-attacks-paddy-inundation-from-2026-kharif-season-10373296/