

**Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Proposed Project Activities
Kharif 2026**

Component – 1 Productivity Enhancement

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1.0 Project Area

The UPAGREES Project will cover approximately 6.15 lakh hectares across to ensure visible and measurable improvements in crop productivity and farmer incomes -

- Selected Villages 3,690
- Selected Development Blocks 123
- Districts 28
- Administrative Divisions 8
- Project activities will be implemented intensively over a net cultivated area of 5,000 hectares per selected block

2.0 Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs)

- FPGs in selected villages will be formed to serve as the primary unit for implementation of project interventions and capacity building.
- The farmers at village level will be contacted individually as well as in groups to aware them with the project concept, the convinced farmers and willing to participate with the project will be identified and listed with the details of land holdings, irrigation facilities, crop raised with production / productivity, household income with its source etc.
- The identified farmers will be organized into Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs), Each FPG will have 10 to 20 ha contiguous land clusters.
- Each participating member of the FPG will have an operational bank account in the banks of jurisdiction.

3.0 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

- At each block level 250-500 FPGs will be formed the FPG members will form their Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) at block level to address various business activities to enhance the farmer's income.
- FPOs will function as an institutional platform for aggregation, service delivery, custom hiring canters establishing with farm machinery banks and market linkage through Krishi Sahyog Kendra (KSK) for long-term sustainability.

Details of Selected Area and Identified Farmers

Division	District	Total Blocks	Selected Blocks	Net Cultivated Area	Selected Cultivated Area	Total Farmer	Identified Farmer
		No	No	ha	ha	No	No
Jhansi	Jhansi	8	4	3,16,806	20,000	3,16,806	20,000
	Lalitpur	6	4	2,90,669	20,000	2,90,669	20,000
	Jalaun	9	4	3,42,768	20,000	3,42,768	20,000
	Sub Total Division	23	12	9,50,243	60,000	9,50,243	60,000
Chitrakoot	Chitrakoot	5	4	1,65,019	20,000	1,65,019	20,000
	Banda	8	4	3,39,729	20,000	3,39,729	20,000
	Mahoba	4	4	2,33,147	20,000	2,33,147	20,000
	Hamirpur	7	4	2,89,212	20,000	2,89,212	20,000
	Sub Total Division	24	16	10,27,107	80,000	10,27,107	80,000
Vindhyachal	Mirzapur	12	4	2,12,130	20,000	2,12,130	20,000
	Sonbhadra	10	4	1,84,732	20,000	1,84,732	20,000
	Bhadohi	6	4	64,223	20,000	96,334	30,000
	Sub Total Division	28	12	4,61,085	60,000	4,93,196	70,000
Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur	19	5	2,38,244	25,000	3,57,366	37,500
	Maharajganj	12	4	1,90,183	20,000	2,85,274	30,000
	Deoria	16	5	1,88,646	25,000	2,82,969	37,500
	Kushinagar	14	5	2,12,727	25,000	3,19,090	37,500
	Sub Total Division	61	19	8,29,800	95,000	12,44,699	1,42,500
Azamgarh	Azamgarh	22	5	2,86,990	25,000	4,30,485	37,500
	Mau	9	4	1,19,795	20,000	1,79,692	30,000
	Ballia	17	5	2,16,842	25,000	3,25,263	37,500
	Sub Total Division	48	14	6,23,627	70,000	9,35,440	1,05,000
Basti	Basti	14	5	1,96,080	25,000	2,94,120	37,500
	Sant Kabir Nagar	9	4	1,21,056	20,000	1,81,584	30,000
	Siddharth Nagar	14	5	2,23,367	25,000	3,35,050	37,500
	Sub Total Division	37	14	5,40,503	70,000	8,10,754	1,05,000
Varanasi	Varanasi	8	4	1,01,670	20,000	1,52,505	30,000
	Chanduali	9	4	1,35,417	20,000	2,03,125	30,000
	Jaunpur	21	5	2,74,778	25,000	4,12,167	37,500
	Ghazipur	16	5	2,60,491	25,000	3,90,736	37,500
	Sub Total Division	54	18	7,72,356	90,000	11,58,533	1,35,000
Devipatan	Gonda	16	5	2,81,460	25,000	4,22,190	37,500
	Balarampur	9	4	2,16,240	20,000	3,24,360	30,000
	Bahraich	14	5	3,33,396	25,000	5,00,094	37,500
	Shrawasti	5	4	1,21,953	20,000	1,82,929	30,000
	Sub Total Division	44	18	9,53,049	90,000	14,29,573	1,35,000
	Grand Total	319	123	61,57,770	6,15,000	80,49,546	8,32,500

4.0 Demonstrations -

As per plan of conducting improved demonstration on various crops in Kharif 2026 the district-wise seed requirements have been estimated. The Seed requirements will be met either through procurement by FPGs under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) or through centralized procurement and distribution by the respective District Project Implementation Units (DPIUs).

5.0 Crops -

To ensure coverage of a larger cultivated area, major cereal (Paddy & Maize), millets (Bajara & Jowar), pulse (Arhar & Urd) and oilseed (Groundnut & Till) crops have been selected for Kharif 2026. In line with the project's objective of enhancing productivity, priority has been accorded to crops with high area coverage but relatively low productivity.

Supporting factors such as road and communication infrastructure, market access, and availability of credit facilities have been considered during crop selection. Based on data from the Statistical Division of the Department of Agriculture for the year 2022–23 the crops have been identified for all 28 project districts.

Major crops occupying the maximum cultivated area during the Kharif and Rabi seasons have been selected for project interventions are detailed here under –

Region	Season	Crops
Bundelkhand	Kharif	Arhar, Bajra, Groundnut, Jowar, Sesame, Urd
Eastern Uttar Pradesh	Kharif	Arhar, Bajra, Jowar, Maze, Paddy
Bundelkhand	Rabi	Gram, Lentil, Mustard, Pea, Wheat
Eastern Uttar Pradesh	Rabi	Lentil, Mustard, Wheat

6.0 Formation of Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs)

A structured process of motivation and mobilization will be undertaken to organize farmers into Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs)

7.0 FPGs Culturable Area

Each Farmer Producer Group (FPG) will have 10 to 20 ha contiguous land clusters with similar cropping patterns. The land holding farmers will be motivated and mobilized for collectivized crop production and efficient marketing management.

8.0 Mobilization

Intensive awareness and outreach campaigns using electronic and mass media, pamphlets, posters, individual interactions, small group meetings, and mass gatherings to orient farmers with the project objectives, planned interventions, and anticipated benefits.

9.0 Group Discussions

Group Discussions will be conducted with farmers to -

- Identify key challenges faced in production and marketing of agricultural produce.
- Create awareness on the benefits of collective action and group-based approaches.
- Build consensus among farmers to organize into village-level groups, considering proximity of landholdings and similarity of cropping patterns.
- Farmers agreeing to collectivize will form the Farmer Producer Group (FPG) of contiguous land clusters of 10 to 20 ha.
- The FPGs members at the block level will subsequently form the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO).

10.0 FPG Activities -

Once the FPGs are constituted, the following activities will be undertaken -

- Identification of Group leaders through a participatory process.
- Participate in Farmer training and capacity-building programs.
- Conduct Soil sampling and getting test reports from soil testing laboratories of DOA.
- laser land levelling of fields having unlevelled surface.
- Upgradation of irrigation systems from macro to micro.
- Adhere with the meeting schedules of FPG
- Prepare crop plans with technical support of Extension Associates /Assistants of the Support Organization (SO).
- Arrange inputs with the assistance of Support Organization, project support will be extended to the groups in accordance with applicable government / project guidelines.
- Seek guidance of support organization (SO) for nutrient management, irrigation management, plant protection management, post-harvest management and in adoption of improved agronomic practices.
- Work closely with the support organization to ensure effective market linkages to fetch better price realization for increased production.

Collectivization will enable improved market access, value addition, branding, and packaging, bulk aggregation of produce will strengthen the bargaining power of groups, allowing them to negotiate better market prices. In addition, collective procurement will enable groups to access quality inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, fungicides, insecticides and herbicides at more competitive prices.

Proposed Activities & Timeline -

SI	Activities	Timeline
1	Support organization's employees pre placement orientation	April, 2026
2	Placement of support organization employees to respective area of intervention	April, 2026
3	Training of support organization employees on formation of FPGs at respective KVKs	May, 2026
4	Awareness generation of farmers with regard to aims & objectives of the project	May, 2026
5	Identify farmers willing to participate in project interventions and having contiguous area in vicinity within the village to form FPGs	May, 2026
6	Formation of FPGs along with their account opening in banks of jurisdiction	May, 2026
7	Sharing note on package of practices for conducting demonstrations along with requirement of seeds and other inputs	May, 2026
8	Training FPGs member farmers at respective KVKs on various aspects of crop management	May, 2026
9	Collection of soil samples for baseline assessment of the soil health	May, 2026
10	Initiating conduction of demonstration on cereal, pulse & oilseed crops	June, 2026
11	Organizing field days on various stages of crop growth	June to October 2026
12	Crop cutting for yield assessment of demonstrations conducted	October, 2026
13	Training on post-harvest management and marketing	October, 2026
14	Computation of crop economics of FPGs	October, 2026

Note - The aforementioned schedule will be followed on availability of field level functionaries, other services, logistics and inputs.