

The Ashok Dalwai Committee (2016–2018)

Strategy for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022-23

The Mandate (Fast Facts)



* **Constituted:** April 2016 by the Government of India.



* **Chairman:** Dr. Ashok Dalwai (Agricultural Economist).



* **Scale:** Comprehensive 14-volume report submitted in September 2018.



* **Target:** Double farmers' real income by 2022-23 (Base year: 2015-16).



* **Oversight:** Empowered Body formed January 2019 to monitor progress.

The Catalyst (Why It Was Needed)



Agricultural distress necessitated a comprehensive roadmap beyond mere output.



* **Stagnating Yields** and rising production costs.



* **Price Volatility** combined with increasing climate risks.



* **Uneven Growth**, leading to low baseline farmer incomes.

The Paradigm Shift: From Output to Income

UPSC GS-3 | Agriculture | Food Security

(Left Panel: The Old Approach)

Food Production Focus



* **Goal:** Increasing agricultural production alone.



* **View of Agriculture:** A subsistence mechanism meant strictly to generate food volume for the nation.

The Conceptual Shift

(Right Panel: The Dalwai Era)

Value-Led Enterprise



* **Goal:** Increasing farmers' REAL income (adjusted for inflation).



* **View of Agriculture:** A commercial, value-led enterprise where monetization is just as important as production.

The Blueprint for Growth: Pillars & Sources

The Engines of Growth (7 Sources of Income):

Production:



Efficiency & Markets:



Labor Shift:



The Foundational Mechanisms (5 Pillars):



Policy in Action: Mapping the Instruments

(Column 1: Productivity & Inputs)	(Column 2: Markets & Monetization)	(Column 3: Risk Management)	(Column 4: Sustainability)
 PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY): Driving irrigation efficiency.	 e-NAM: Integrating agricultural markets digitally.	 PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY): Crop, weather, and price risk protection.	 National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture: Ensuring sustainable soil/water use and climate resilience.
 Soil Health Card: Ensuring balanced nutrients and soil management.	 FPO Scheme: Driving aggregation and farmer bargaining power.	 PM-KISAN: Direct income support.	
		 Kisan Credit Card (KCC): Institutional credit access.	

Critical Evaluation: The Reality Check

Data & Tracking Deficits

- **The Deadline Passed:** The 2022-23 target year passed without conclusive demonstration of universal income doubling using comparable official data.
- **Infrequent Surveys:** Income surveys are rare; the latest Situation Assessment Survey cited for this evaluation only covers 2018-19, severely limiting real-time policy evaluation.

Structural & Input Bottlenecks

- **Fragmented Holdings:** Small and marginal farmers lack credit, storage, and tech, suffering from inherently weak bargaining power.
- **Offsetting Factors:** Input-cost inflation, highly volatile prices, and severe climate shocks routinely offset any productivity gains.
- **Inequality:** Average income gains often conceal stark regional, gender, and farm-size inequalities.

Market & Implementation Gaps

- **State Dependency:** Success relies heavily on individual states (agriculture is a State subject) for market reforms and inter-ministerial coordination.
- **Missing Infrastructure:** High-value diversification demands reliable buyers and cold chains that are absent.
- **The Labor Paradox:** Moving surplus labor requires actual decent local jobs and skills, not just a policy target.

Strategic Resolutions: The Way Forward

1



Step 1: Institutionalize Data

Conduct regular farm-household income surveys. Build transparent outcome dashboards to track inflation-adjusted real income, not just budgets or output.

2



Step 2: Strengthen Market Institutions

Build stronger FPOs and cooperatives to ensure predictable markets, improved market access, and remunerative prices for farmers.

3



Step 3: Localize Infrastructure

Develop highly localized storage, processing, and value-addition infrastructure to support high-value agricultural diversification.

4



Step 4: Ensure Resilience & Equity

Focus specifically on tenant farmers, women farmers, rain-fed regions, and smallholders.

Deploy efficient irrigation and climate-resilient agriculture while linking skilling with agro-processing and rural non-farm jobs.

The UPSC Master-Sheet

(Left Panel: Prelims Quick-Fire)

- ✓ **Timeline:** Constituted April 2016 | Report submitted Sept 2018 (14 volumes).
- ✓ **Target:** Double farmers' real income by 2022-23 (Base year: 2015-16).
- ✓ **Framework:** 7 Sources of income growth | 5 Pillars for enhancement.
- ✓ **Jurisdiction:** Agriculture is a State subject; the Union merely supplements state efforts.
- ✓ **Metric:** Income must always be evaluated in real terms (adjusted for inflation).

(Right Panel: Mains Concluding Thought)

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The Conceptual Legacy:

The Dalwai Committee's lasting contribution was to make farmers' income — not merely farm output — the central measure of agricultural progress. Its success requires measurable real-income outcomes, resilient markets, sustainability and inclusive implementation.

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