## PM - Kisan Samman Nidhi 13th instalment - Status of Exclusions Rejections Integrated Tribal Development Agencies - Andhra Pradesh



# LibTech India | October 2023

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#### 1. About the Report:

The Government of India introduced the PM- Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN) scheme in 2019 to provide input subsidy to all farmers, provided they meet certain conditions. As part of the benefits under the scheme, the farmers will receive a sum of ₹ 6,000/- per agricultural year across three instalments of ₹ 2,000/- each.

We found that the total registered farmers as per the PM KISAN Dashboard is 2,35,212, from 6 Integrated Tribal Development Agencies(ITDAs) of Andhra Pradesh. These ITDAs are Chintur, Kota Ramachandrapuram, Paderu, Parvathipuram, Rampachodavarm and Seethampeta. Together, these 6 ITDAs stretch across 36 Blocks/Mandals<sup>1</sup>. We analysed PM KISAN aggregate level information till 13th instalment for 216489<sup>2</sup> farmers from these mandals. Further, we used transaction level information for 2.16 lakh farmers (Data crawled on 28th July 2023) to gain deeper insights for the 'Rejections and exclusions'.

Farmers from the 6 ITDAs of Andhra Pradesh have received about 362.56 Crores till 13th instalment. Further payments worth 153.7 Crores is due for the eligible but excluded farmers.

The objective of the exercise is to sensitise various government departments on rejections and exclusions in PM Kisan in ITDA areas of AP. Number of farmers registered so far, till the 13th instalment and a few other important statistics of the PM KISAN program for the ITDAs can be seen in the table below.

### 2. Key Statistics

Table 1: Important statistics of PM KISAN implementation in the ITDAs of Andhra Pradesh

S No	Key Statistics	Number of Farmers/ Amount	% of registered farmers
1	Total Registered Farmers	2,16,453 <sup>3</sup>	100%
2	Received all instalment farmers	1,16,077	53.6% of the total registered
3	Missed at least one instalment farmers	1,00,376	46.4% of the total registered
4	Ineligible farmers missing <sup>4</sup>	18,388	8.5% of the total registered
5	Eligible farmers missing <sup>5</sup>	81,988	37.9% of the total registered

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>List of Mandals can be found in Annexure - I

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data for 36 records is not available

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> After removing 36 farmer records for the analysis as no data is available on the MIS for these records

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> All of these farmers are marked as ineligible in the MIS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> These farmers didn't receive payments due to various reasons like Aadhaar bank account seeding, Land Seeding,e-KYC and payments under processing etc.

6	Farmers with payments under processing	28,922	13.4% of the total registered
7	Eligible Farmers but excluded <sup>6</sup>	53,068	24.5% of the total registered
8	Average Amount received in Rs <sup>7</sup>	16,750	NA
9	Average Amount missed in Rs <sup>8</sup>	15,310	NA
10	Risk e-KYC, who received payments so far	17,802	8.2% of the total registered 15.3% of the all instalments received

As we can see more than 53.6% of all the registered tribal farmers received all of their due entitlements till the 13th instalment of PM KISAN. And the number of farmers registered Vs the number of farmers received their PM KISAN entitlements can be seen in the figure below.

Figure 1: Number of farmers registered Vs received PM KISAN entitlements in each instalment

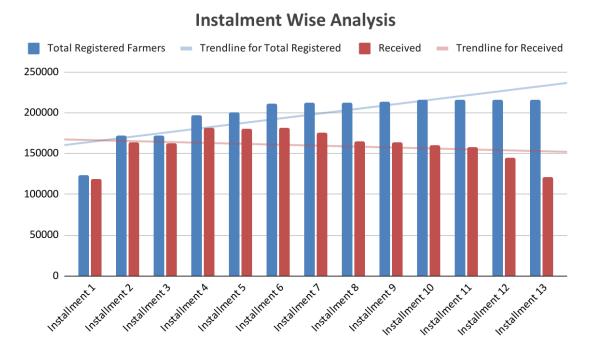


Figure 1 shows that the number of registered farmers climbed until instalment 6 (the end of the second year of implementation) and then remained uniform, showing that farmer registrations are saturated. However, the number of farmers receiving benefits has decreased since instalment number six. It is largely due to the introduction of additional verification processes, like the mandatory e-KYC and the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System(APBS). We observed that many tribal farmers were unable to meet these compliances required, despite being eligible, due to a lack of infrastructure and grievance redressal mechanisms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Eligible farmers excluding the ones with payment under processing status

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Total amount received/ No of farmers, who received at least one instalment

<sup>8</sup> Total amount missed/No of farmers, who missed at least one instalment

#### 3. Exclusions & Reasons

The farmers missing at least one instalment are 1,00,376 from these 36 blocks, and there are close to 30 reasons as per the MIS for excluding these farmers. Our analysis found that 18,388 farmers were marked as ineligible and the remaining 81,988 are due to receive their due instalments. Out of these another 28,922 farmer's payments are under processing and are likely to receive their payments as and when the due process completes.

1,16,113 farmers received all the instalments while 1,00,376 farmers missed at least one instalment due for them as on July 2023<sup>9</sup> till 13th instalment

We tried to categorise the remaining 53,068 eligible but excluded farmers into 4 broad categories based on their exclusion reasons<sup>10</sup> and we found that they have more than one exclusion reason. In other words, it is important to note that each farmer may have more than one reason for exclusion, and to receive their PM KISAN entitlements all of the issues need to be resolved. As each farmer has more than one reason to be resolved, the sum of the farmers affected by each of the following reasons will not be equal to 53,068.

- 1. No Land Seeded: There are 23,681 farmers affected with this issue in the PM KISAN MIS. However, when we verified<sup>11</sup> Rythu Bharosa eligibility and payment status for 9197 farmers among these, we found 4,297<sup>12</sup> farmers received the latest instalment of Rythu Bharosa. It is roughly 47% of the verified records and it asserts the need for verification of all the 23,681 farmers and ensure all the eligible farmers receive PM KISAN entitlements too. Further, it is also important to note that 14,760 of these 23,861 farmers have the issues to be resolved in at least one of the other three categories.
- 2. Aadhaar bank account not seeded: This problem affects 8,614 farmers and is caused by the newly implemented APBS to transfer PM KSIAN. All of these farmers are supposed to map their bank accounts with the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) mapper to be able to receive cash payments under direct beneficiary transfers. The Government of India argues that this approach will help filter out duplicate data since it uses Aadhaar as the farmers' bank address to ensure that only eligible farmers receive payments. It is important to assist these farmers at the earliest, to resolve this issue for these farmers and enable them to receive their entitlements across schemes.
- 3. **e-KYC not done:** There are 34,931 farmers who have failed to complete the e-KYC mandated by the government of India. All of these farmers will not receive any further payments in PM KISAN and among these, 17,802 (51%) farmers got their 13th

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The data crawl happened between 18th and 28th July

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> All the exclusion reasons as per the MIS can be found in annexure - IV

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> As on 12th October 2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>Among these 2,822 farmers are likely to receive Rythu Bharosa under RoFR category as they received ₹ 7,500, ₹ 2000 and ₹ 2000 in three instalments.

instalment and are at risk of losing future PM KISAN instalments. Lack of infrastructure appears to be the most difficult obstacle in resolving this in tribal areas, and given limited network availability, it is difficult for a tribal farmer to use e-KYC via an OTP. As such, it is the government's responsibility to finish all of these farmers' e - KYC in time for the upcoming 14th instalment, which is expected to begin in November 2023.

4. Stop Payment by state: The state government stopped payments to these 10,907 farmers in PM KISAN. From the perspective of grievance registration, it is critical for a farmer to know the cause; if the state government can verify all of these records (given the arbitrary exclusion reasons observed in the field observations) and shall update accordingly in the PM KISAN MIS. While we acknowledge that there may be legitimate reasons for stopping payments, it is critical for the farmer to understand the cause in order to challenge it and show their eligibility, if they are eligible.

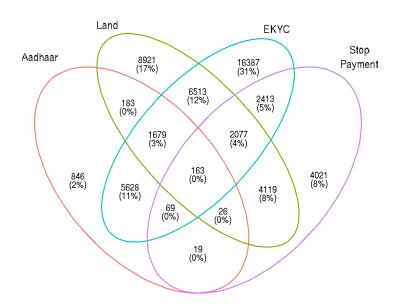


Figure 2: Number of eligible farmers but excluded for different reasons

Figure 2 shows how these farmers are distributed among the 4 broad categories of exclusions and the overlap among these reasons is evident. In order to help all of these 53,068 farmers, a little more than 80,000 issues are to be resolved. ITDA wise issues to be resolved and the number of farmers affected can be seen in table 2. And our analysis found that 22899 farmers have more than one issue to be resolved in order to get included in the PM KISAN scheme and receive their due instalments.

Table 2: Number of farmers with different exclusion reasons in each ITDA

		Number of Issues					
		Aadhaar			Stop	Total Issues	Number of
S		Related	Land	e - KYC	Payment	to be	Farmers
No	ITDA	Issues	Issues	Issues	issues	Resolved	Affected

1	Chintur	563	1547	1777	1571	5458	3287
	Kota						
2	Ramachandrapuram	553	1289	2620	1244	5706	3838
3	Paderu	2944	13826	13506	5917	36193	24487
4	Parvathipuram	2123	4290	9378	2161	17952	11818
5	Rampachodavaram	2034	2166	6116	1653	11969	7623
6	Seethampeta	396	563	1534	361	2854	2015
	Total	8613	23681	34931	12907	80132	53068

ITDA Paderu has the most number of excluded farmers with 46% of the excluded among all the ITDAs. Another 22% of the excluded farmers are from Parvathipuram ITDA, these two ITDAs alone constitute 68% of the exclusions affecting 36,305 farmers. Seethampeta has the least number of farmers affected with only 3.8% of the affected farmers among the 6 ITDAs.

#### 4. Field Observations

We have met the farmers who were excluded for various reasons after the transfer of 13th instalment payments in PM KISAN across Alluri Sitaramaraju District. We found empirical evidence that many genuine farmers were excluded in the 13th instalment as it was possible for the field level officials to select any reason arbitrarily and submit the same without the need for evidence in the PM KISAN Portal. Find some examples in the following case studies (note that the names of the farmers have been changed)

#### 1. Excluded with reason "Old district to new district transfer"

V Rangamma from Kokkirapalli village of Palamamidi grama panchayat in G.Madugula, has been receiving the PM KISAN entitlements till 8th instalment payment. By the 13th instalment, the government stopped 4 instalments, declaring the farmer ineligible owing to "old district to new district transfer." This reason, however, was not included in the 2022 dropdown list of ineligibilities in the Block officials login, as shown in the image below. Additional eligibility requirements appear to have been added afterwards to identify more disqualified farmers.

We found that Rangamma owns land as per Mee Bhumi and was registered in Grama Sachivalayam & Ward Sachivalayam Database in the same village and has been receiving Rythu Bharosa payments (7500/ annually) all through. And Rangamma had no clue why she couldn't receive 13,500 under Rythu Bharosa. In fact the volunteers and the village secretariat staff were not helpful in resolving her issue to ensure PM KISAN entitlements.

Farmer name : V Rangamma
Aadhaar number : XXXXXXX9284
PM KISAN registration number : APXXXX45291
Last PM KISAN payment credited on : 11/08/2021

#### 2. Excluded with reason "Death"

G.S Rao, a farmer from Cheekumbanda village in Vanjari Grama Panchayat in G.Madugula mandal, was marked as dead on the MIS (mandal agricultural officer login) and has been stopped by the state from receiving PM KISAN benefits beginning with the 12th payment. While he is still alive and has been receiving rations from a PDS shop (mera ration websites confirms the same), he was surprised to learn that he did not receive PM KISAN because the PM KISAN records show that he is deceased.

Farmer name : G.S Rao

Aadhaar number : XXXXXXX5595
PM KISAN registration number : APXXXX26706
Last PM KISAN payment credited on : 11/08/2021
Rice Card Number : 282177XXXX

It is evident from the above two case studies that the field level verification is not being carried out with necessary attention, and as a result, eligible farmers may be disqualified from the system. While we recognise that it may appear far-fetched to conclude that all of the excluded farmers are eligible based on our field observations, it is critical that all of these excluded farmers be verified before the 14th instalment of PM KISAN begins and that all eligible farmers receive their due instalments.

#### 5. Recommendations

As we have seen in the data analysis more than INR 150 crores is due to be received by the tribal farmers across the state.. Based on our observations and several conversations with all the stakeholders involved in the implementation of the scheme we suggest that the government shall take the following steps at the earliest to resolve all of the flagged issues and help all the eligible farmers ro receive their due PM KISAN entitlements.

- 1. Periodic Training: Several interviews with field functionaries (including but not limited to volunteers, secretariat staff, and agriculture staff at the mandal level) reveal that they did not receive the necessary training to navigate the PM KISAN Management Information System, which hampers their ability to carry out their duties diligently. Because the PM KISAN MIS is constantly evolving, all implementation staff members require periodic training to learn and carry out their tasks in a responsible manner.
- 2. Campaigns NPCI mapping: We have noticed that this has been one of the biggest challenges across the DBT schemes implemented in the tribal regions. Based on our experience in resolving this issue we recommend that the government should consider opening up Postal Payment Bank Accounts for all the excluded farmers as it ensures NPCI mapping within 24-48 hours and is better accessible to the tribals than the conventional banks.

- Campaigns to e-KYC: Department of Agriculture conducts special camps in every agriculture season to complete e-KYC of all the farmers across the state for e-CROP registrations and the pending e-KYC in PM KISAN can be completed during the same time every year.
- 4. Land Mutations: Many tribal farmers have been cultivating their lands for generations but thousands were excluded as their family land records are not registered under their names or the digital lands records are not seeded with their Aadhaar numbers. It is welcoming to see efforts made by the ASR district collector and ITDA Paderu Project Officer to simplify the land mutation process for the farmers under their jurisdiction. Similar procedures can be adopted across the tribal areas to benefit all the tribal farmers excluded with land related reasons in PM KISAN.

Additionally, the verification procedure should be streamlined to make it more efficient and accessible to tribal farmers. This involves dealing with e-KYC and Aadhaar-related difficulties. And a comprehensive field-level verification process shall be adopted to prevent arbitrary exclusions and assure that excluded farmers can dispute their exclusion with evidence of eligibility. Further, regular audits and monitoring are also recommended to quickly detect and correct flaws, hence improving the PM-Kisan scheme's efficiency and inclusion across the tribal areas. Finally, it is critical for farmers to have access to payment status and exclusion reasons, which can be presented in village secretariats alongside Rythu Bharosa details.

Annexure - I

Number of Farmers & PM KISAN entitlements in ITDAs for the 13th instalment

				Farmers Received 13th Instalme	
S No	Name of the ITDA		Farmers Registered	No of Farmers	% of Registered Farmers
1	Chintur	4	9566	4597	48%
2	Kota Ramachandrapuram	5	20802	8563	41%
3	Paderu	11	84840	46171	54%
4	Parvathipuram	8	62219	37934	61%
5	Rampachodavaram	7	28105	16398	58%
6	Seethampeta	1	10891	8084	74%
	Grand Total	36	216423	121747	56%

Annexure - II

Number of excluded farmers in each ITDA & the number of reasons caused exclusion

			Number of Farmers Excluded with				
S		Under	One	Two	Three	Four	
No	Name of the ITDA	Processing	Reason	Reasons	Reasons	Reasons	Total
1	Chintur	1347	1388	1636	254	9	4634
	Kota						6329
2	Ramachandrapuram	2491	2271	1280	273	14	5525
3	Paderu	10566	14499	8319	1620	49	35053
4	Parvathipuram	9541	6732	4097	930	59	21359
5	Rampachodavaram	3598	4031	2860	701	29	11219
6	Seethampeta	1379	1255	684	73	3	3394
	Total	28922	30176	18876	3851	163	81988

**Annexure - III** 

Mandal wise farmers registered, received and excluded along with the amount received and pending in the 36 blocks of 6 ITDAs in Andhra Pradesh till the 13th instalment of PM KISAN

			Nur	Number of Farmers			Amount in Lakhs of Rupees		
S		Mandal		Received all due	Missed at least one		Due to be		
No	ITDA	Name	Registered	instalments	instalment	Received	Received		
1	Chintur	Chintur	2322	1227	1095	389.34	157.66		
2	Chintur	Kunavaram	1630	1015	615	267.38	119.34		
3	Chintur	Nellipaka	2795	1108	1687	454.54	197.94		
4	Chintur	Vararamacha ndrapuram	2819	1160	1659	343.16	271.1		
5	Kota Ramachandrapu ram	Buttayagude m	9047	3621	5426	1287.6	892.28		
6	Kota Ramachandrapu ram	Jeelugu Milli	2990	751	2239	351.66	324.2		
7	Kota Ramachandrapu	Kukunoor	3912	1158	2754	332.64	642.38		

	ram						
	Kota						
	Ramachandrapu						
8	ram	Polavaram	4534	2546	1988	698.62	396.5
	Kota						
	Ramachandrapu						
	ram	Velairpadu	319	125	194	35.9	40.62
	Paderu	Ananthagiri	7464	4490	2974	1268.28	521.7
11	Paderu	Araku Valley	6938	3565	3373	1082.48	524.62
12	Paderu	Chintapalle	7720	3600	4120	1096.28	690.56
13	Paderu	Dumbriguda	7405	3977	3428	1252.34	523.76
14	Paderu	G Madugula	9302	5016	4286	1569.82	574.16
		Gudem					
15	Paderu	Kotha Veedhi	8585	3057	5528	1000.08	912.74
16	Paderu	Hukumpeta	9980	5366	4614	1781.06	599.36
17	Paderu	Koyyuru	6791	3534	3257	1194.76	434.96
		Munchingi					
18	Paderu	Puttu	6518	3299	3219	1025.98	451.08
19	Paderu	Paderu	7271	5035	2236	1431.42	353.02
20	Paderu	Peda Bayalu	6896	3743	3153	1127.58	481.22
		Gummalaksh					
21	Parvathipuram	mipuram	6609	4194	2415	1233.8	397.62
		Jiyyammaval					
22	Parvathipuram	asa	8786	5315	3471	1686.3	388.68
23	Parvathipuram	Komarada	7397	4750	2647	1433.66	356.24
24	Parvathipuram	Kurupam	6194	3405	2789	1134.64	419.04
25	Parvathipuram	Makkuva	8209	5077	3132	1475.88	500.04
26	Parvathipuram	Pachipenta	5580	1889	3691	753.92	597.68
		Parvathipura					
27	Parvathipuram	m	10870	5463	5407	1769.7	855.76
28	Parvathipuram	Salur	8574	5172	3402	1486.9	536.92
	Rampachodavar						
29	am	Addateegala	5663	3355	2308	970.96	391.2
	Rampachodavar						
30	am	Devipatnam	6	4	2	1	0.5
	Rampachodavar						
31	am	Gangavaram	4676	2412	2264	800.6	301.8
	Rampachodavar						
32	am	Maredumilli	2962	2137	825	567.36	159.64
	Rampachodavar	Rajavomman					
	am	gi	5597	2804	2793	894.84	448.82
34	Rampachodavar	Rampachoda	5524	3268	2256	1098.52	266.88

	am	varam					
	Rampachodavar	Υ					
35	am	Ramavaram	3677	2124	1553	696.96	204.36
36	Seethampeta	Seethampeta	10891	7315	3576	2260.24	433.3
		Total	216453	116077	100376	36256.2	15367.68

Annexure - IV

List of reasons for exclusions in PM KISAN and Classification

	Reason as per PM KISAN MIS	Classification
1	Aadhaar Bank not seeding to Account (NPCI Mapping)	Aadhaar related issues
2	e-KYC not done	e-KYC issues
3	Land seeding not done	Land issues
4	Not a Land Owner	Stop payment issue
5	Old district to new district transfer	Stop payment issue
6	Not Eligible	Stop payment issue
7	Death	Stop payment issue
8	Income Tax Payee	Stop payment issue
9	Benefit Surrender	Stop payment issue