

# In UP, over 50K farmers to start using solar pumps for irrigation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** More than 50,000 farmers in Uttar Pradesh will shift to using renewable energy to irrigate their fields through the groundwater.

The state govt has set a target of doling out Rs 551 crore as subsidy for installation of surface and submersible pumps.

Farmers deploying pumps (2 horsepower to 10 horsepower) would be eligible to get the benefits.

Under the PM Kusum scheme, farmers are being urged to switch to green energy by availing the subsidy. The rates of the pumps vary between Rs 1.71 lakh to Rs 5.60 lakh out of which up to 70% is



**SOLAR POWER**

going to be refunded to the eligible farmers. While the union govt reimburses 30% of the cost, the state provides the balance 70%.

The target for the current fiscal year is to facilitate installation of 53,250 solar energy pumps. The switchover to the cleaner form of energy will bring down car-

bon emission and irrigation cost and will help in covering the areas where power is not available and farmers have no option but to use diesel to operate a borewell in such areas.

A farmer from Bhagautipur in Itaunja, Rakesh Pratap Singh said, "Surface pumps can be used in places where groundwater is found 22 feet below while submersible pumps are used to draw water out from the ground beyond that. Majority of the farmers use a 5 horsepower submersible pump and get drilling done up to 200 feet."

In critical areas where already a lot of water has been drawn from the ground in the past, drilling a borewell will

not be allowed.

Similarly, no power connection would be provided to the farmers who opt for the PM Kusum scheme. Generally, borewells are operated for a period of 150 days to irrigate the field. Through a universal solar pump controller device, the surplus electricity produced could be used for operating fodder cutter machines and tools, thresher, flour mill or cold storage refrigerator.

Additional chief secretary of the agriculture department Devesh Chaturvedi that detailed guidelines have been circulated among the agriculture department officials deputed across the 75 districts.