

## Farm scheme badly executed: CAG report

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**NEW DELHI:** The Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) performance audit report on the functioning of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) tabled in Parliament on Tuesday is an abject lesson of how not to conceive, plan, and execute.

In Uttar Pradesh, seeds costing ₹61.43 crore were supplied after sowing time; a ₹4.26 crore banana cold storage facility in Maharashtra could not take off as the site was inviable; only 170 units out of 1,479 approved mini dairy units could be set up in Andhra Pradesh as banks refused to provide loans to the farmers; date palm plants costing ₹12.89 crore were lying unutilised in Rajasthan. Instances like these galore in the report.

On Sunday, HT had already reported on how the audit "revealed a propensity to spend, a rush to commit expenditures without caring for due diligence which has resulted in gross under-performance of the scheme."

"The manner in which projects were sanctioned, without requisite pilot studies and

regardless of local variabilities, compromised its intended bottom-up approach, and resulted in a scramble for project approvals," the report said.

"The underlying spirit of the RKVY is sectoral, agro-climatic and locational variegation and is targeted towards maximising advantages. This does not appear to have happened in an optimal manner," it added.

Launched in the 11th Plan against a backdrop of faltering agriculture growth, the RKVY was designed as a state plan scheme with complete flexibility to the states to choose projects specifically tailored to their conditions for generating growth in agriculture and allied sectors.

From 2007-08 to 2012-13, ₹28,083 crore was spent against an allocation of ₹32,460.45 crore across 28 states and seven Union Territories.

"The states reported expenditure of ₹31,916.53 crore during 2007-08 to 2012-13, the corresponding figures reported by the ministry was ₹27,938.52 crore. Thus the integrity of the data was questionable," the report said.