

# Zero Budget Natural Farming

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# About ZBNF

In the recent past, there has been a global demand to shift to sustainable farming systems, such as Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF).



## ZBNF



## UNION BUDGET 2019-2020



India, too, introduced ZBNF in its Union Budget 2019-20.

ZBNF is a method of **chemical-free agriculture** drawing from traditional Indian practices.



Chemical Free



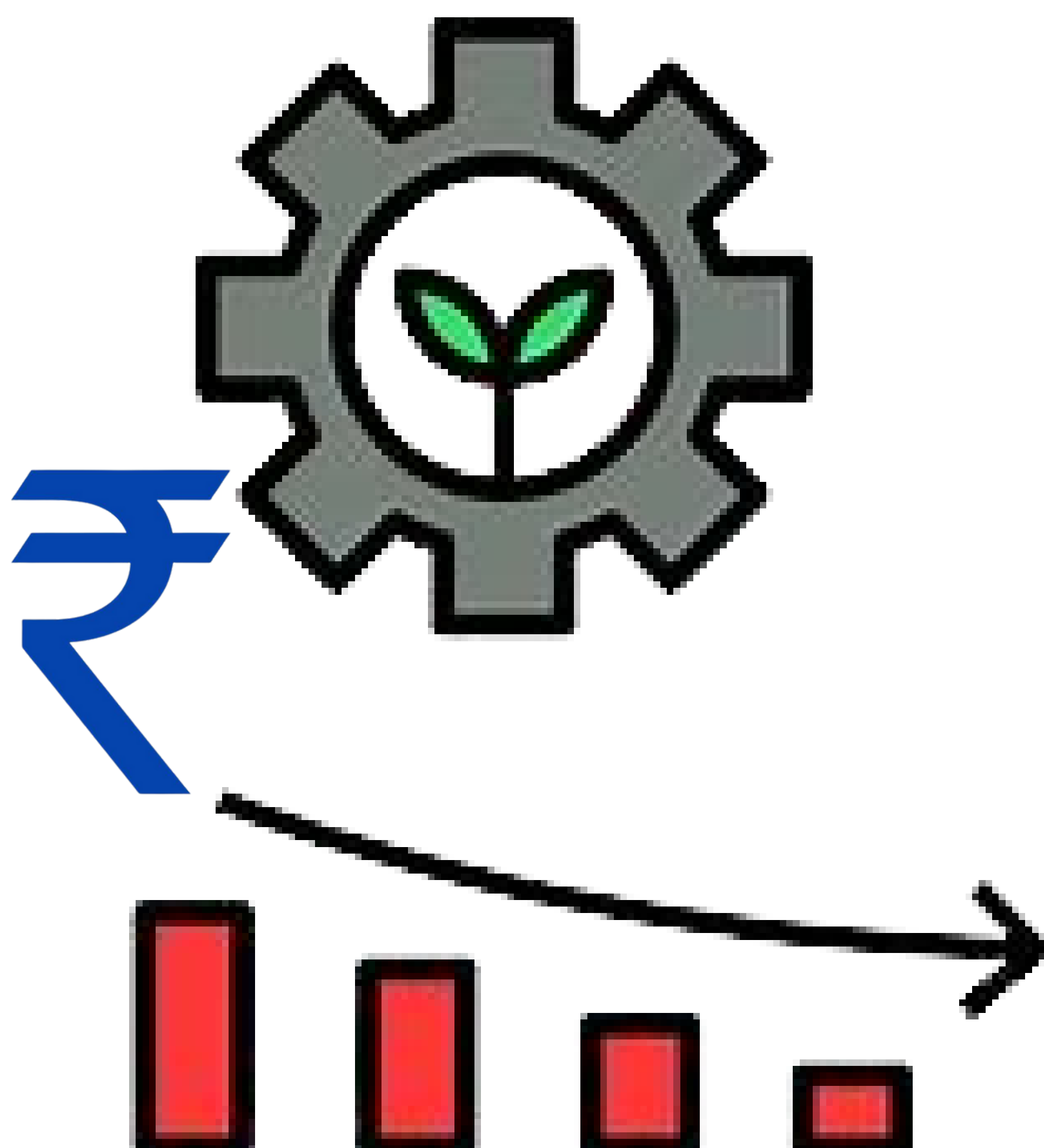
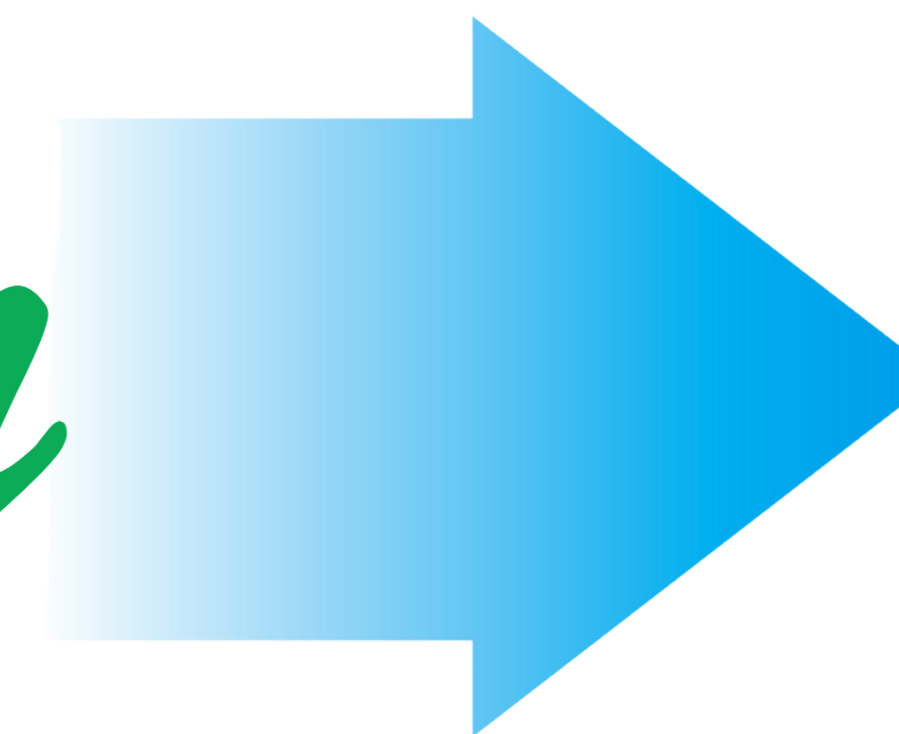


It was originally promoted by **Maharashtrian agriculturist** and Padma Shri recipient **Subhash Palekar**, who developed it in the mid-1990s as an alternative to the Green Revolution's methods driven by chemical fertilizers and pesticides and intensive irrigation.



**Subhash Palekar**

*green*  
Revolution



Without the need to spend money on these inputs or take loans to buy them, the cost of production could be reduced and **farming made into a “zero budget” exercise**, breaking the debt cycle for many small farmers.



ZBNF is also **against vermicomposting**, which is the mainstay of typical organic farming.



## Jeevamrutha



**Jeevamrutha**

Instead of commercially produced chemical inputs, the ZBNF promotes the application of jeevamrutha, a **mixture of fresh desi cow dung and aged desi cow urine, jaggery, pulse flour, water and soil on farmland.**



This is a fermented microbial culture that **adds nutrients to the soil**, and acts as a **catalytic agent** to promote the activity of microorganisms and earthworms in the soil.



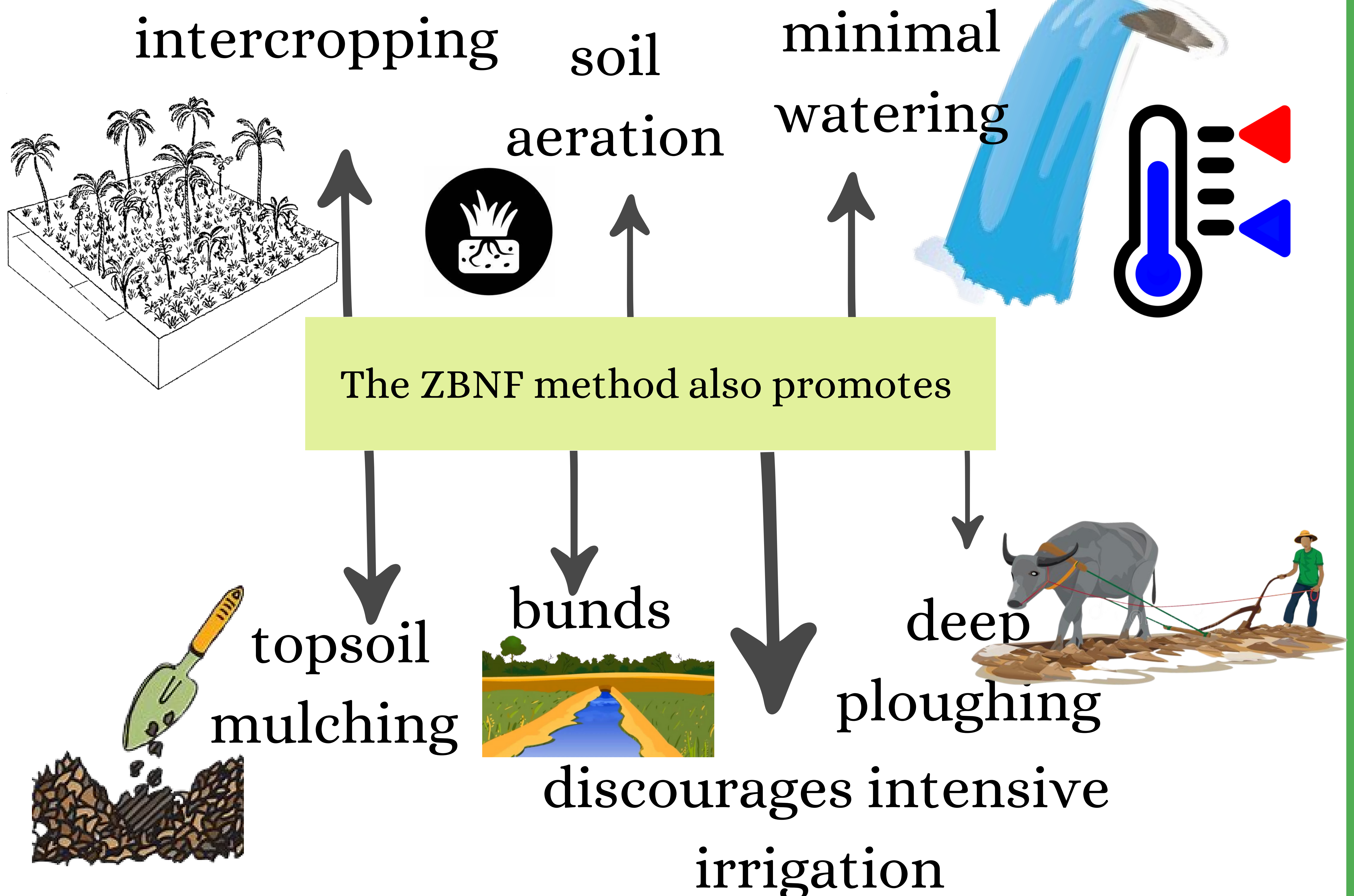
**200 LITRES**



About 200 litres of jeevamrutha should be sprayed twice a month per acre of land. Only one local indian breed cow is needed for 30 acres of land.



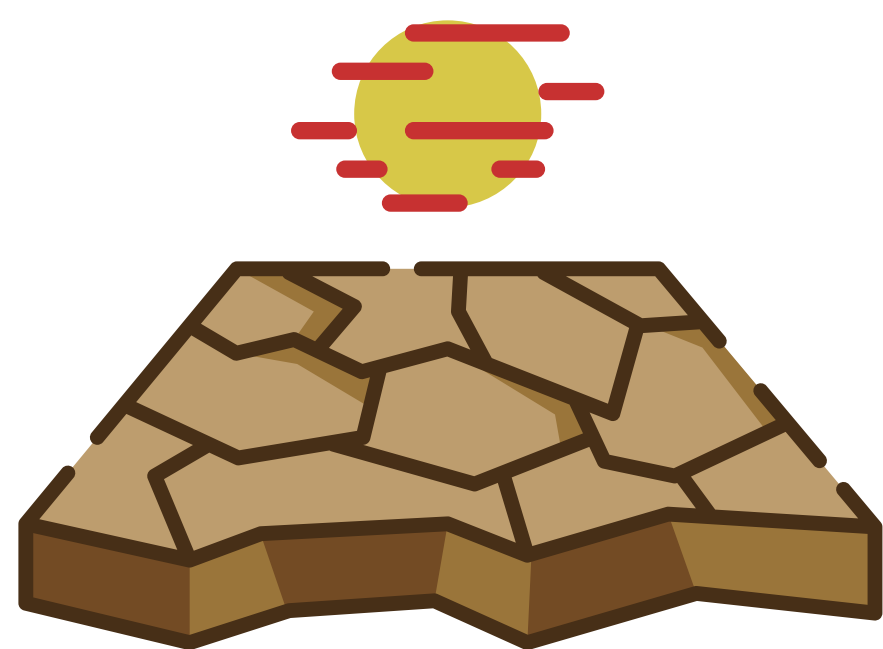
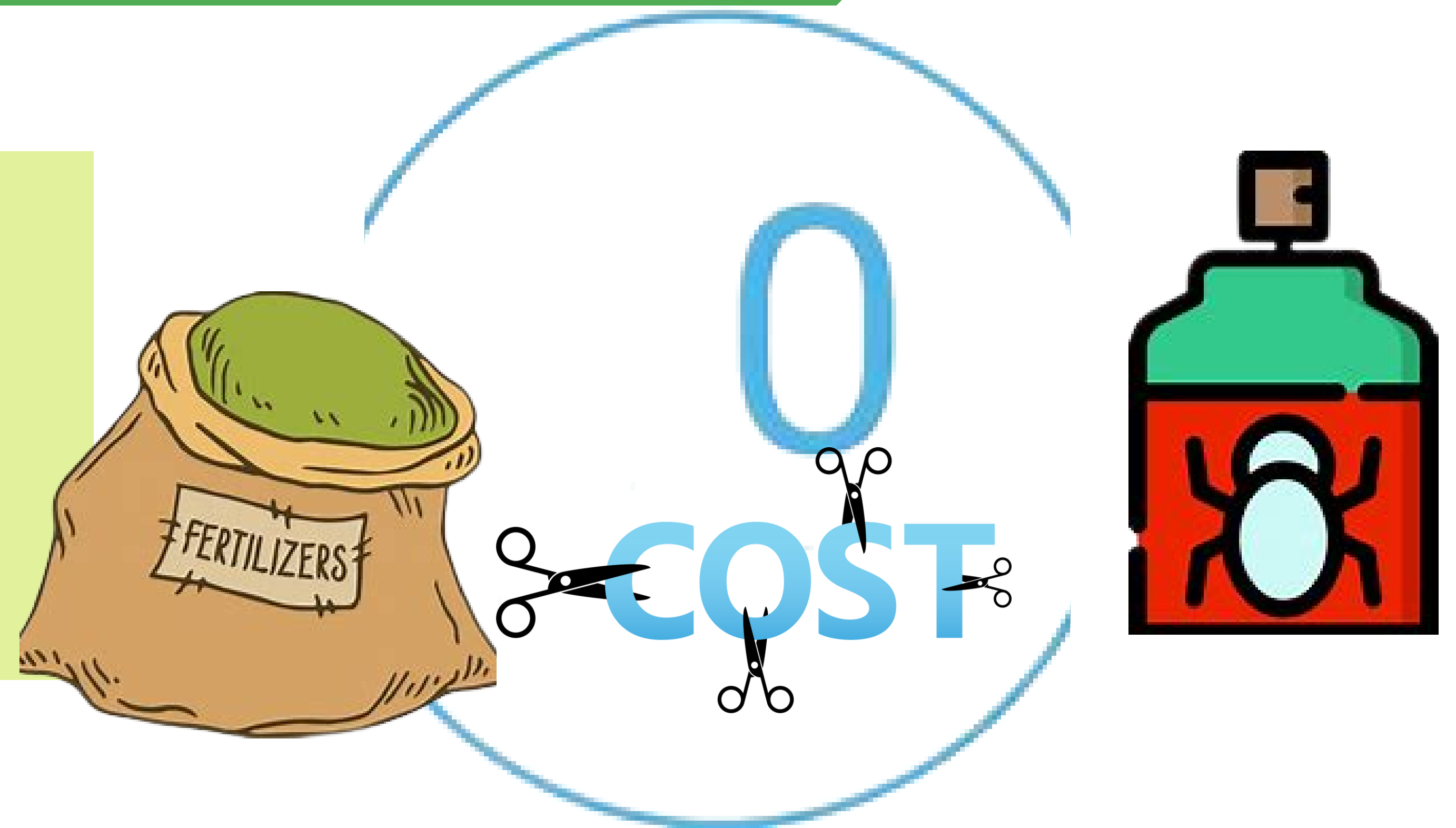
# Other techniques in ZBNF





# Advantages of ZBNF

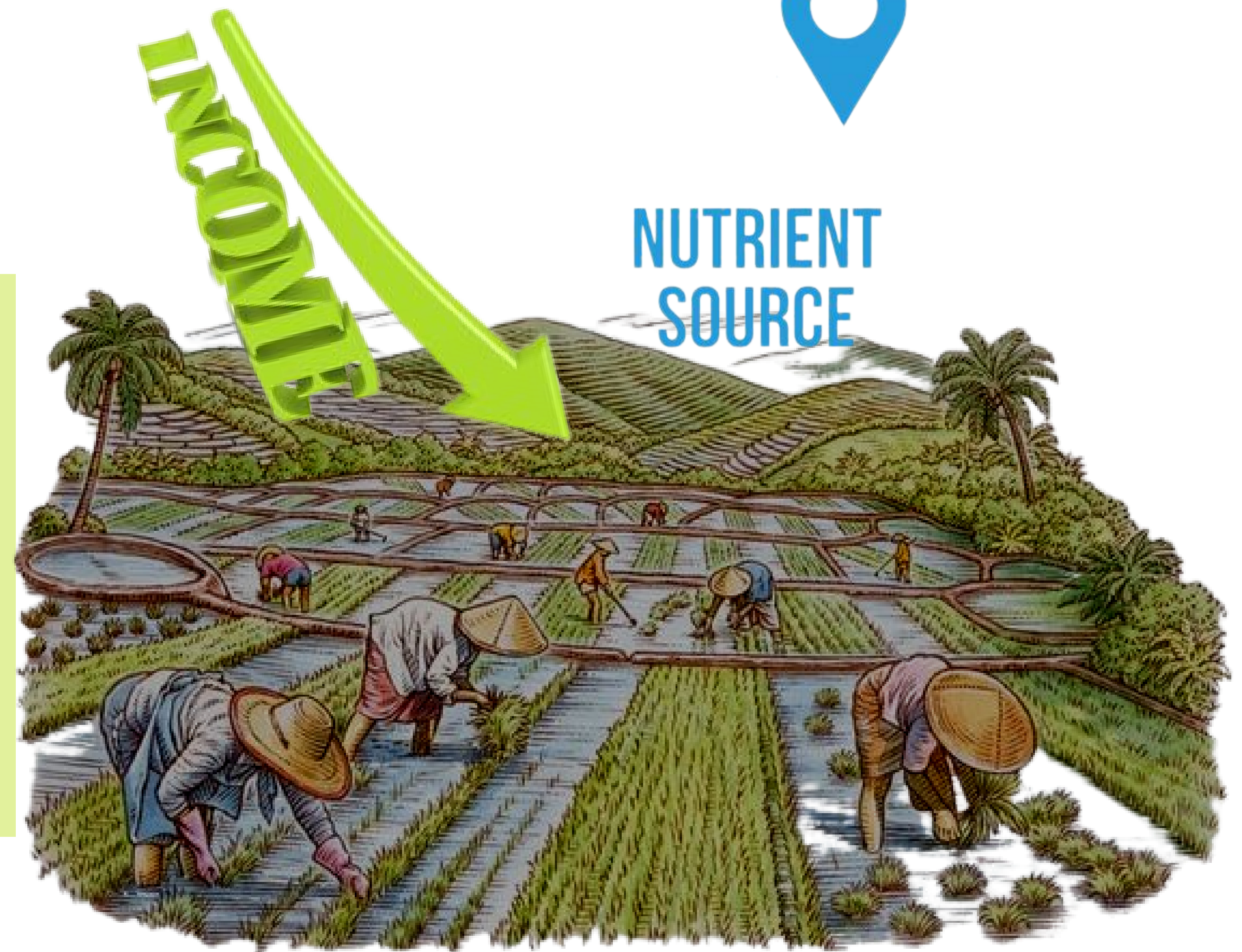
**Input costs are near zero** as no fertilizers and pesticides are used.



ZBNF farms were able to **withstand drought and flooding.**





NUTRIENT  
SOURCE

The planting of multiple crops and border crops on the same field provide **varied income** and **nutrient sources**.



There is reduced usage of water and electricity, improved health of farmers, flourishing of local ecosystems and biodiversity and no toxic chemical residues in the environment.



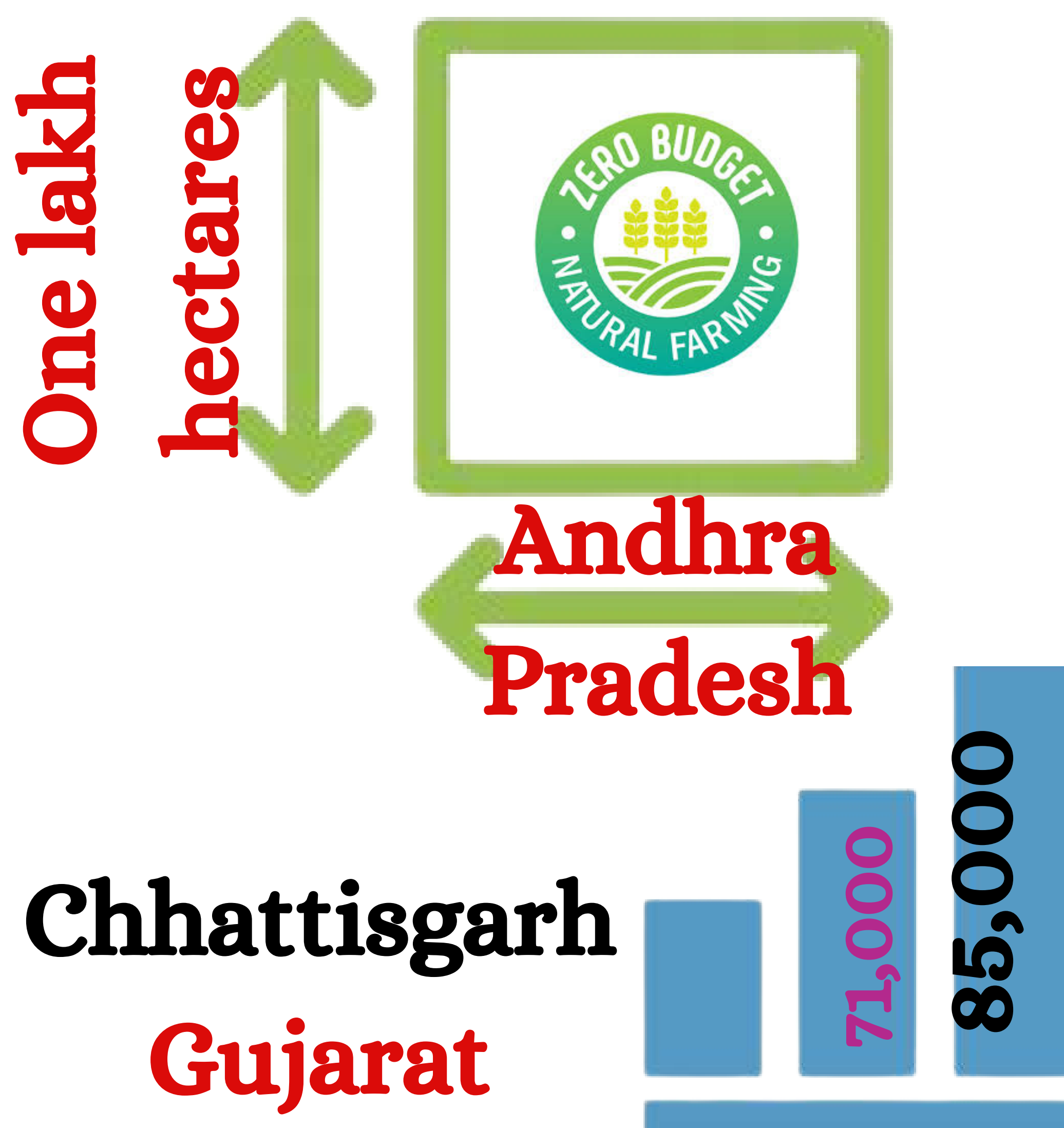


## States with implementation plans for ZBNF

The Centre has sanctioned the proposals of **eight States** for support under the **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana** scheme this year.



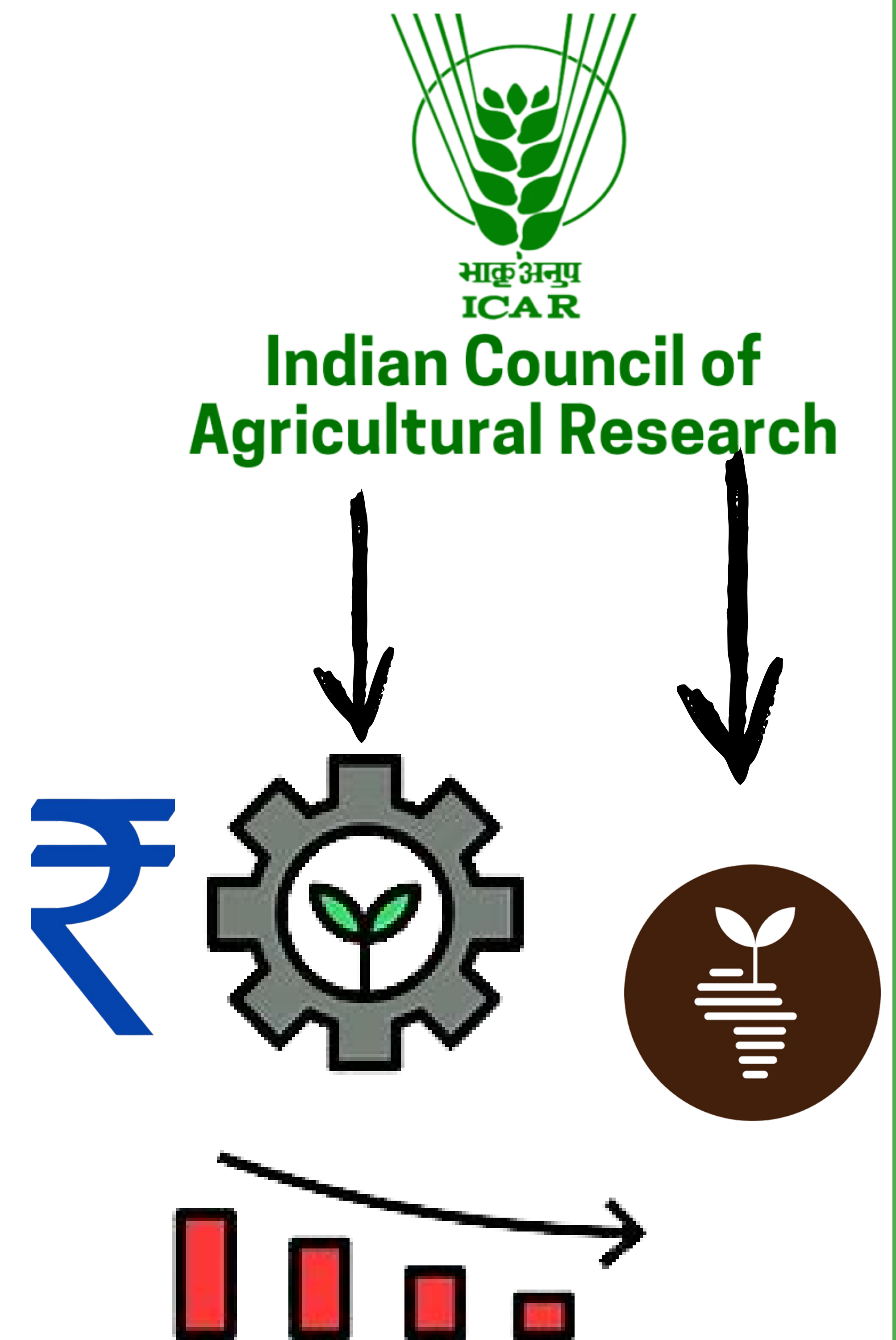
**Paramparagat Krishi  
Vikas Yojana**



**Andhra Pradesh** has the biggest ambition to bring **one lakh additional hectares** of land under ZBNF under the scheme, followed by **Chhattisgarh**, with 85,000 additional hectares and **Gujarat**, with 71,000 additional hectares.



The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, which is conducting studies on the ZBNF methods practised by **basmati and wheat farmers** in Modipuram (Uttar Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), Pantnagar (Uttarakhand) and Kurukshetra (Haryana), evaluating the **impact on productivity, economics and soil health** including soil organic carbon and soil fertility.



## Why in News



Anand, Gujarat



The Prime Minister is set to promote the ZBNF'S benefits and provide more details on the strategies to implement it at a national conclave in Anand, Gujarat.



# Reference

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/the-push-for-zero-budget-natural-farming/article37964198.ece>