Bharat-VISTAAR: An AI-based Solution for Smart Farming

Vishalakshi Choubey, PhD Research Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, IGKV, Raipur

Hem Prakash Verma, Senior Research Fellow, ICAR-National Institute of Biotic Stress

Management, Baronda, Raipur (C.G.)

Article ID: 23002

In February 2026, the Government of India launched a new AI-powered agriculture platform called Bharat-VISTAAR (*Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources*). The platform is designed to provide farmers across the country with reliable, real-time agricultural information and advisory support using cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence technology. Bharat-VISTAAR was announced in the 2026-27 Union Budget, officially launched on 17 February 2026 in Jaipur, Rajasthan and inaugurated by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan with state leadership. (Government of India, 2026).

Bharat-VISTAAR

Bharat-VISTAAR is a digital agriculture infrastructure that brings together weather data, market prices, pest and disease alerts, crop management guidance, soil health insights, and information about central government schemes on one unified platform (Kumari, 2026; Vijayan, 2026). Through AI, it delivers personalised recommendations to farmers in local languages. The platform operates as a Voice-First AI system, meaning even farmers with basic feature phones can access it simply by calling a dedicated helpline number (155261). (The Times of India, 2026).

In addition to phone access, the service can soon be accessed through:

- A mobile Android app
- A web chatbot interface
- Text-based chat systems on partner platforms

Key Features of Bharat-VISTAAR

- **Real-Time Weather Updates:** Provides weather forecasts and alerts to help farmers plan irrigation, planting, and harvesting (Kumari, 2026).
- **Market Prices:** Delivers mandi price information so farmers can make informed sales decisions (Vijayan, 2026).

AgriScope
Monthly e-Magazine on Agriculture and Interdisciplinary Sciences
Visit at us: **www.agriscope.in**
Email at us: **agri4scope@gmail.com**

- **Pest & Disease Advisory:** Offers alerts and advice on managing crop pests and diseases.

- **Soil Health Insights:** Guides farmers based on soil conditions to improve fertility and yields.

- **Government Scheme Information:** Covers at least 10 major central government schemes like PM-KISAN, PMFBY, Soil Health Card, Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and others, including benefit status, eligibility, and grievance tracking (The Economic Times, 2026).

- **Multilingual Support:** Initially available in Hindi and English, with plans to support many regional languages.

- **AI Voice Assistant "Bharati":** Farmers can talk to the AI in conversational language to get answers tailored to their farm needs.

Why Bharat-VISTAAR Matters

Before the introduction of Bharat-VISTAAR, farmers often had to navigate a fragmented information ecosystem. They depended on multiple government portals, local agriculture offices, extension workers, call centers, private input dealers and informal intermediaries to obtain updates on weather forecasts, pest outbreaks, market prices, crop advisories and scheme benefits (The Economic Times, 2026). This process was not only time-consuming but also confusing, especially for small and marginal farmers with limited digital literacy. Information was scattered across departments, frequently

AgriScope
Monthly e-Magazine on Agriculture and Interdisciplinary Sciences
Visit at us: **www.agriscope.in**
Email at us: **agri4scope@gmail.com**

delayed, and sometimes inconsistent, making timely decision-making difficult. Bharat-VISTAAR transforms this landscape by functioning as a comprehensive, one-stop digital agricultural advisor. Through a simple voice call or mobile application, farmers can access integrated services that combine weather intelligence, market analytics, pest and disease alerts, soil health recommendations and detailed information about government schemes; all in one unified interface. Its voice-first approach ensures inclusivity, allowing even farmers without smartphones or advanced technical skills to benefit from AI-powered advisory services. The platform's advanced artificial intelligence capabilities analyze vast datasets in real time to generate highly personalized, location-specific, and crop-specific recommendations. By leveraging predictive analytics, natural language processing and machine learning models, Bharat-VISTAAR delivers precise guidance tailored to each farmer's unique conditions. Even farmers in remote and underserved regions can now receive expert-level agricultural advice instantly.

By effectively bridging the long-standing gap between scientific research and on-field agricultural practice, Bharat-VISTAAR strengthens the extension ecosystem. It enhances productivity through informed crop management, reduces production risks through early warnings and predictive alerts, optimizes input usage to lower costs, and ultimately contributes to improved farm profitability. In doing so, the platform represents a significant step toward resilient, technology-driven, and income-secure agriculture across India.

Challenges and Future Prospects

While promising, the full potential of Bharat-VISTAAR will depend on expanding language support, improving rural connectivity, and training farmers to use digital tools effectively (The Economic Times, 2026). As the platform evolves, it is expected to include more regional schemes, support additional languages, and integrate with local agricultural systems.

Conclusion

Bharat-VISTAAR represents a transformative step in India's journey toward technology-driven, inclusive and farmer-centric agriculture. By integrating weather intelligence, market data, pest and disease advisories, soil health guidance, and government scheme information into a single AI-powered ecosystem, the platform simplifies access to critical agricultural knowledge. Its voice-first approach, supported through a dedicated helpline and multilingual capabilities, ensures that even small and marginal farmers with limited digital literacy can benefit from advanced advisory services. More than just a digital tool, Bharat-VISTAAR strengthens the agricultural extension system by bridging the gap

AgriScope
Monthly e-Magazine on Agriculture and Interdisciplinary Sciences
Visit at us: **www.agriscope.in**
Email at us: **agri4scope@gmail.com**

between research institutions, government services, and farmers on the ground. Through real-time data analytics and personalized recommendations, it empowers farmers to make timely, informed, and risk-aware decisions that enhance productivity and profitability.

Although challenges such as digital connectivity, language expansion, and user training remain, the platform holds immense potential to reshape India's agricultural landscape. As it continues to evolve and expand, Bharat-VISTAAR is poised to become a cornerstone of resilient, sustainable, and income-secure farming, supporting millions of farmers in building a smarter and more self-reliant agricultural future.

References

1. Arti Kumari. (2026). Union Government Launches Bharat-VISTAAR to deliver weather alerts, crop advisory and farm intelligence. Skymet Weather. https://www.skymetweather.com/content/climate-change/union-government-launches-bharat-vistaar-to-deliver-weather-alerts-crop-advisory-and-farm-intelligence

2. Vijayan, S. (2026). Bharat-VISTAAR: AI-Powered digital platform for Indian farmers. LinkedIn. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/sujith-vijayan-253520221_q-what-is-bharat-vistaar-a-bharat-vistaar-activity-7429760931338874880-nmYgn

3. Agriculture ministry launches Bharat-VISTAAR, a multilingual AI tool for digital farm advisories. (2026). The Times of India. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/agriculture-ministry-launches-bharat-vistaar-a-multilingual-ai-tool-for-digital-fam-advisories/articleshow/128472775.cms

4. Government to launch multi-lingual AI tool Bharat-VISTAAR for agriculture sector. (2026). The Economic Times. https://m.economictimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/government-to-launch-multi-lingual-ai-tool-bharat-vistaar-for-agriculture-sector/articleshow/127841795.cms