

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1156
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16/12/2022

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL SAFFRON MISSION

1156. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds sanctioned and utilized under the National Saffron Mission (NSM) during the last three years;
- (b) the status of NSM in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (c) the number of farmers benefitted from the NSM scheme in last three years;
- (d) whether there has been a decline in saffron production in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether Government is taking any steps to boost saffron production in Jammu and Kashmir; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Year-wise funds sanctioned and utilized by UT of Jammu & Kashmir under National Saffron Mission during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Funds sanctioned	Expenditure reported by UT of J & K
2019-20	8030.51	2625.25
2020-21	1500.00	90.90
2021-22	311.00	219.50*

**Funds were released to UT but were not released to implementing agency by UT; however they have made an expenditure of Rs. 219.50 lakh, as pending liabilities and also reported physical progress during 2021-22.*

(b): The status of NSM in J & K is at **Annexure – A.**

(c): 3467 farmers have been benefitted from the National Saffron Mission scheme in last three years.

(d) & (e): There has been no decrease or decline in the production of saffron in Jammu and Kashmir. It has been recorded that during the last three years there has been few fluctuations in the productivity but these phenomena are quite usual in case of agricultural crops. The details of production and productivity of saffron in J&K during last three years are as under:

Year	Total Area	Rejuvenated Cumulative Total (area in ha)	Total area under traditional method	Total Production Rejuvenated area (MTs)	Total Production inclusive from non-traditional areas (MTs)	Total Productivity (Kgs/ha)
2019-20	3715	2578.75	1136.25	12.95	15.12	4.07
2020-21	3715	2598.75	1116.25	13.36	18.05	4.86
2021-22	3715	2598.75	1116.25	11.20	15.035	4.04

(f) & (g): Yes. “National Mission on Saffron” is being implemented strictly as per the guidelines and the best agricultural practices as have been envisaged are being implemented on the ground. The results are being felt at the ground level with incremental increase in production, productivity and value of produce. Some of the best practices implemented are given at **Annexure – B**.

Annexure-A

National Saffron Mission: - National Mission on Saffron was launched during 2010-11 with an outlay of Rs.400.11 crore with Government of India share of Rs.315.99 crore under the RKVY scheme of DA&FW for 3 years. Two subsequent extensions were given to NSM for 2014-15 to 2015-16 and 2016-17 to 2017-18. At the end of March, 2018 total funds released by GoI was Rs. 235.69 crore and expenditure reported was Rs. 228.75 crore.

A Saffron Park which was an important component has already been set up at Pampore, District Pulwama through the National Horticulture Board (NHB) by the J & K to provide platform for Post Harvest Management, E-trading, spot exchange, quality testing and ISO certification. The total budget initially sanctioned was Rs.24.50 crore and later an extra budget of Rs.13.26 crore was approved, hence total budget was made for Saffron Park was Rs.37.80 crore under RKVY. The Saffron Park has been handed over by NHB to Directorate of Agriculture, Government of J&K, who is presently running this park.

Phase – II

A decision was taken in 2018-19 by this Department that the residual activities of Saffron Mission would be funded under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) as part of regular Annual Action Plan of the State instead of RKVY Scheme. No funds were released for Saffron Mission during 2018-19.

Accordingly, a provision of Rs.80.30 crore had been made for the residual activities of National Saffron Mission (100% GoI share) in the approved Action Plan 2019-20 of J & K in addition to the regular activities (Rs.55.00 crore) of the State under MIDH scheme. Provision for spill over activities were also made in the Annual Action Plan of 2020-21 (Rs.1500.00 Lakh) and 2021-22 (Rs.311.00 Lakh). **UT of J & K has reported expenditure of Rs.2625.25 Lakh during 2019-20, Rs. 90.90 Lakh during 2020-21 for the residual activities of Saffron Mission. Implementing agency also booked an expenditure of Rs. 219.50 lakh during 2021-22.**

Some of the best practices implemented are given as under:

1. **Corm Selection:**
Select Corms > 8 grams
Disease Free & Free from lesions
2. **Corm treatment**
3. **Planting Time:**
The most optimum time of planting: August – September
4. **Average Corm No:** 500000 corms/ha @ 8 gm/corm
5. **Spacing:**
Row to Row spacing (20 X 10 cm)
Depth of 15 cm with one corm/hill
6. **Nutrient Management**
Inorganic Fertilizer
Urea: 145 Kgs/hectare
DAP: 132 Kg/hectare
MOP: 83 Kgs/Hectare
FYM: 10 Ton/ha
Vermicompost: 5 q/ha
Inter-culture Operations
1st Hoeing = 2nd Fortnight of June
2nd Hoeing = 1st week of September
7. **Weed Control:**
Integrated Weed Control
Pre-emergence control of winter and spring weeds by Metribuzin @ 560 g/ha in December followed in February. Manual Weeding in May.
8. **For Rodent Management:**
Aluminium phosphide pouches (5-10 g) are placed in live burrows @ 1 pouch/burrow.

Apart from above best Agronomic Practices the Department of Agriculture is ensuring the following:

1. Timely availability of irrigation facilities befitting the critical stages of crop growth.
2. Stigma separation within 10-12 hours of flower picking.
3. Drying of Saffron in controlled conditions under the temperature range of 40-50 degree centigrade.
4. Saffron is stored at around 10 degree centigrade with an initial moisture content of 8% in air tight containers.
5. Indoor Saffron cultivation practices are being popularized.
6. E-auction of Saffron is being given due impetus and farmers are being encouraged for carrying out their business on the e-auction platform.
