

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1953
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23/12/2022

SOIL DEGRADATION IN GOA

1953. SHRI LUIZINHO JOAQUIM FALEIRO:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) total area of rice fields and area under rice cultivation in Goa at present;
- (b) whether Central Government or Government of Goa have conducted any study on soil health management in Goa with respect to major crops of rice, coconut, cashew, arecanut, mangoes and spices etc., if so, findings thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that one of the main reason of soil degradation in Goa is destruction/non maintenance of dams which leads to ingress of salt/saline water in coastal areas of Goa; and
- (d) if so, steps taken by Government in this regard to help farmers of Goa?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): As per latest available estimates for 2020-21, the total area under rice cultivation (including kharif & rabi) in Goa is 32.68 thousand hectares.

(b): Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute Goa, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has conducted studies on runoff, soil loss and nutrient loss from important horticultural crops like Cashew, Mango and Coconut cultivated on sloping lands which revealed that, on an average soil loss from Cashew, Mango and Coconut cropping systems were 24, 12.6 and 10.5 tonnes/hectare/year, respectively. The runoff loss as percentage of rainfall in Cashew, Mango and Coconut cropping systems were 23%, 32.1% and 23.8% respectively. The nutrient loss from Cashew, Mango and Coconut cropping systems were 35.8, 76.4 and 62.1 kg/hectare (N), 1.9, 13.8 and 10.9 kg/hectare (P) and 52, 33.6 and 19.3 kg/hectare (K), respectively in the same sequence.

(c) & (d): Government of Goa is implementing a scheme for protection of notified khazan lands by taking up repairs & strengthening of khazan bunds so as to protect khazan lands from damages and destruction due to salinity ingress. Government provides financial assistance for such works as per laid down procedure.

ICAR has developed salt tolerant rice varieties for costal saline soils viz. CSR 13, CSR 23, Sumati, Utpala Bhutnath, Amal-Mana, Goa Dhan-1 and Goa Dhan-2. ICAR also imparts training, organizes front-line demonstrations etc. to educate farmers on coastal agriculture.

Further, Government of India is implementing a National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (Soil Health Card/Soil Health Management), now, merged as Soil Health & Fertility component of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) scheme through the State Government. The main objective of the scheme is to assist states in promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio- fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. Under this scheme testing soil samples to issue Soil Health Cards is one of the sub components. Soil Health Card provides information to farmers on soil nutrient status of their soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.
