

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3379
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31/03/2023

INCREASING PEST ATTACKS

3379. SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether frequency of pest attacks on farm crops has increased over the years across different States;

(b) if so, the specific States/UTs that witnessed increasing pest attacks in the past five years and the area of farm land that is affected by pests;

(c) the effect of these pest attacks on the livelihood and economic conditions of farmers and whether Government is taking any steps to control these attacks; and

(d) whether the increased use of pesticides due to the pest attacks is leading to increased toxicity of farm produce, if so, the steps taken to balance the two?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The 36 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs) under the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage (DPPQS) located across the country conduct survey and surveillance for pest and diseases with main emphasis to forewarn the farmers on the potential epidemics of plant pests. DPPQS issues advisories to State Governments for effective management of pest incidence. The details of pest incidence in the past five years is enclosed at Annexure I.

(c) & (d): The CIPMCs in collaboration with the State Agriculture Departments conduct various training programmes such as Farmers' Field Schools (FFS), two/five days Human Resource Development (HRD) programmes, Kisan Goshthis, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Exhibitions and Seed Treatment Campaigns to educate farmers about various aspects of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies. The farmers are sensitized about safe and judicious use of pesticides and are encouraged to use bio-pesticides & bio-control agents in plant pest management.

DPPQS has developed six Package of Practice (PoP) on Pineapple, Banana, Turmeric, Mango, Apple and Grapes for producing quality product. In the last five years, 63

Advisories/Forewarning have been issued on outbreak of crop pest to State Governments for their effective management. In collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations; India is working on the project- Global Action for Fall Army Worm (FAW) management in India. Under the project; regular surveys for surveillance and monitoring of FAW on maize are conducted by CIPMCs. A Guide for facilitators of FFS program on maize for FAW management and has been developed. The percentage area of maize affected by FAW has decreased from 11.7% in 2019-20 to 6.6% in 2022-23.

The National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed 47 technologies for the management of invasive pests. ICAR's All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Biological Control is exclusively promoting biocontrol technologies for management of insect pests and disease of crop plants.

Annexure-I

Major Pest/Disease Incidence in Major Crops of India during Last 5 Years

Sr.No	Crop	Pest/Disease
1.	Paddy	Yellow stem borer
		Brown plant hopper
		Leaf folder
		Case worm
		Blast
		Gundhi bug
		Sheath rot
		SRBSDV
2.	Cotton	White fly
		Pink Boll worm
		Thrips
3.	Maize	Fall army worm
		Stem borer
4.	Wheat	Yellow rust
5.	Mango	Fruit fly
		Mango hopper
6.	Sugarcane	Red rot
		Top shoot borer
7.	Coconut	Rugose spiraling whitefly
		Rhinoceros beetle
8.	Chilli	ThripsParvispinus
9.	Potato	Late blight
10	Brinjal	Fruit & shoot borer
11.	Banana	Sigatoka

Source: Survey data submitted by CIPMCs & State Agriculture Departments
