

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.250**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11/08/2023

**PRODUCTION OF EXOTIC FRUITS IN PUDUCHERRY**

\*250. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

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

- (a) the details of production of exotic fruits in Puducherry during the last three years and the current year, year-wise, variety-wise and district-wise;
- (b) the extent to which farmers have benefitted from production of exotic fruits; and
- (c) whether Government is helping the States to grow exotic fruits and, if so, the details of schemes/ programmes under which Government is helping Puducherry for the same?

**ANSWER**

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 250 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 11/08/2023**

(a) to (c) : Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) promotes holistic development of horticulture including exotic crops through regionally differentiated programmes like Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) with an end to end approach encompassing components for planting material production, new plantation, horticulture mechanization, rejuvenation, protected cultivation, training of farmers, post harvest management and creation of marketing infrastructure etc. The Ministry has identified globally popular fruits namely Avocado (Butter fruit), Blue berry, Dragon fruit (Kamalam), Kiwi, Mangosteen, Persimmon, Passion fruit, Rambutan and Strawberry for promotion and scale up of production under MIDH scheme in all States and Union Territories (UTs) including Puducherry. The support has been provided under MIDH to promote exotic fruits specially dragon fruit (Kamalam) in Puducherry. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) – Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) has conducted various programmes like trainings, demonstrations and farm fest for promotion of exotic fruit crops in Puducherry. MoA&FW has also sanctioned Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Dragon Fruit (Kamalam) at IIHR, Bangalore to provide quality planting material, technical knowledge through trainings and demonstrations to the farmers of all States/ UTs including Puducherry.

Horticulture crops are also covered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to provide safeguards to farmers. The assistance is also available for creation of infrastructure in Horticulture sector under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme of Government of India. National Horticulture Board (NHB) is also providing support for development of commercial horticulture, protected cultivation and post harvest infrastructure including cold storages, pack-houses, primary processing etc. The support is also available to promote micro irrigation in horticulture crops through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (PMKSY). Plantation of Dragon fruit (Kamalam) under horticulture plantation has been permitted under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Puducherry has reported area and production of horticulture crops including exotic fruits like Dragon fruit (Kamalam) as 8150 ha and 27810 MT respectively, as per first advance estimate of 2022-23.

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