

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No.254
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11/08/2023

QUALITY CHECKS AND PRACTICES UNDER ATMA SCHEME

*254. SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS

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

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism or criteria to assess the quality and relevance of technologies and practices disseminated through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has received any feedback from farmers or other stakeholders for improving the quality and relevance of technologies and practices disseminated through the Scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government on such feedback or suggestions?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PART (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 254 DUE FOR REPLY ON 11/08/2023 ON “QUALITY CHECKS AND PRACTICES UNDER ATMA SCHEME”.

(a) & (b): Government of India launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms’ popularly known as ATMA Scheme in 2005-06 aimed at providing technical knowledge to farmers on a broad scale to improvise their various skills and transfer of new technologies not only in Agricultural field but also in other allied sectors like Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Fisheries and Sericulture for increasing their farm income. Presently, Scheme is being implemented in 704 districts of 28 states & 5 UTs in the country. The scheme promotes decentralized farmer-friendly extension system in the country. Under the scheme, Grants-in-Aid is released to the State Governments with an objective to support State Government’s efforts to make available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sector to farmers through different extension activities viz; Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc. Till 7th August, 2023, over 653.59 lakh farmers have been benefited under the scheme through different extension activities since its inception.

While the concept of district level Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) has been promoted with an idea to provide a platform for integrated extension delivery involving all the Stakeholders, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) operating at the same level act as an outreach arm of NARS facilitating validation and adopting of new technologies through front line demonstrations & awareness programs and other initiatives. KVK at district level provides knowledge and validate new technology for dissemination among farmers through ATMA network. Thus, a mechanism is in place to develop and validate new agricultural technologies by the NARS system at various levels before its dissemination among large number of farmers through ATMA network.

(c) & (d): Activities of the scheme are monitored and evaluated at periodic intervals through a specific mechanism generated at different levels (Block, District, State and National level). At National level, 4 evaluation studies through outside agencies have been carried out so far during 2009-10, 2017-18, 2019-20 and 2020-21 by Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd., Creative Agri Solutions, Indian Society of Agri-business Professionals and DMEO, NITI Aayog respectively. The gist of these evaluation studies is as under:-

- ATMA has a strong institutional presence on the ground, the activities conducted have enabled farmers to learn about new technologies and have the opportunities to interact with scientists to enable them to increase their knowledge.
- Seed Replacement Ratio (SRR) of the certified seeds has increased significantly through ATMA intervention.
- Farmers admitted that after adopting new technologies, not only yield of crops but milk production has also increased.
- Farm demonstrations and Farm Schools have a good learning impact on farmers and the production is also increasing.
- Mobilization of Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs)/Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs)/ Food Security Groups (FSGs) under ATMA scheme are integrating with Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs).
