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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 984
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/07/2023

BEEJ APPLICATION

984.   SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA:

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

(a) the objectives of Beej application launched by Government;
(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure widespread adoption of Beej application; and
(c) the details of other such applications launched by Government to facilitate smart farming techniques and bring convenience to farmers?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b):   Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has launched Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory (SATHI) portal to trace back the entire seed supply chain, licensing, seed Inventory and seed sale by dealers to seed growers etc. The major objectives of SATHI portal are as under:
- o To enhance and ensure the quality and purity of seeds through the complete digital platform to cover entire Seed Life Cycle over multiple generations of Seeds.
- o To increase accountability with the help of seed traceability through multiple modules.
- o To improve the on-field efficiency of Seed Certification Inspector by reducing human error and integrating technology into the system.
- o To reduce transactional time for registration, approval, access to field inspection reports, lab testing reports, and certification of Seeds.
- o To provide an eco-friendly alternative to carry-out different operations.

The discussions and meetings have been convened with all the stakeholders for wide spread application of SATHI Portal.
In addition to this, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has been operating Seed Net India Portal to make available seed related information to various stakeholders etc.

(C): The use of Digital/Smart technologies are increasing in the agriculture for benefiting the farmers across the Country. The use of some Smart technologies in Agriculture are as under:
- The Institutes of Agricultural Engineering under Subject Matter Divisions (SMD) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research have taken up a number of projects to address different aspects of the smart agriculture such as development of sensor based equipments for application of farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, water and pesticides. Promotion of the Unmanned Aerial vehicle for application of nano-fertilizer and spraying is one such initiative which will help reduce the time taken to perform the operation. The work is initiated on

developing standard operating protocol for the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in different crops and various applications.

- Further, Government has taken various measures to provide access to technology and information across the country, which are given below:

  Under plan scheme viz. National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A) wherein, funds are released to the State(s)/UT(s) for project involving use of modern technologies viz. Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Robotics, Drones, Data Analytics, Block Chain etc.

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture is being implemented as an open source, open standard and inter-operable public good to enable inclusive farmer centric solutions and support for growth of agri-tech industry and start-ups. It includes: Development of Central Core of the DPI

  - ➢ Registries (Farmers, Crop Sown registry and Geo Referencing of Village Maps and Crop Sown Registry)
  - ➢ Unified Farmers Service Interface
  - ➢ Agri Data Exchange

Development of Krishi Decision Support System (KDSS)

- Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) aims at 'reaching the unreached' by bringing to the small and marginal farmers in the core and giving the benefits of farm mechanization, by Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centers', creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments, distribution of various agricultural equipments, creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities, and ensuring performance- testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country.

- National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. Digital services are provided to traders, farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO), Mandis through various modules of e-NAM platform such as FPO trading module, warehouse based trading module.

- Under PM KISAN Scheme, fund is directly transferred into the bank accounts of the eligible farmers under Direct Benefit Transfer mode. Farmers can do their self- registration through the Farmers Corner in the portal. PM-KISAN Mobile App was launched to broaden the reach of the scheme where farmers can view beneficiary status, update or carry out corrections of name based on their Aadhaar card and also they can see history of benefits transferred to their bank accounts.

- National Project on Soil Health and Fertility: To issue soil health cards to farmers of the country, so as to provide a basis to address nutrient deficiencies in fertilization practices. Soil Health Card Portal is available where farmers can track soil samples.

- Development of Kisan Suvidha mobile application to facilitate dissemination of information to farmers on the critical parameters viz., Weather; Market Prices; Plant Protection; input Dealers (Seeds, Pesticides, Fertilizers) Farm Machineries; Soil Health Card; Cold Storages & Godowns, Veterinary Centres and Diagnostic Labs. With market information, farmers are better informed about markets to sell produce, prevailing market prices and quantity demanded in the market. Thus, they can make informed decisions to sell produce at the right price and right time.

- The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has also compiled more than 100 mobile apps developed by ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the areas of crops, horticulture, natural resources management and integrated subjects, offer valuable information to the farmers, including package of practices, market prices of various commodities, weather related information, advisory services, etc. and uploaded on its website.

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