

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

STARRED QUESTION NO. 143
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/12/2023

SCHEMES FOR WELFARE OF FEMALE FARMERS

*143. SMT MAMATA MOHANTA :

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study on the problems being faced by female farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, if not, whether Government will conduct such a study; and
- (c) the details of schemes initiated, if any, by Government for the welfare of female farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (a) TO (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 143 FOR 15/12/2023 REGARDING SCHEMES FOR WELFARE OF FEMALE FARMERS

(a) & (b): The Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (CIWA), Bhubaneswar under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi is working with the mandate to undertake research on gender issues in agriculture and allied fields, through its All India Coordinated Research Project Centers (AICRP) in India. ICAR- CIWA, Bhubaneswar and its 13 All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Women in Agriculture centres are regularly conducting programmes and research activities to identify the challenges and problems faced by farm women. The State-wise details are given at **Annexure I**.

Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) has conducted 03 studies for identifying the needs of women in agriculture. The details are given at **Annexure II**.

(c): The Government is implementing various schemes and programmes for the farmers and agripreneurs including women farmers and agripreneurs as per the eligibility and conditions existing in the scheme guidelines in the States. The guidelines of the various beneficiary oriented schemes of the DA&FW, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) provide that States and other implementing agencies should incur expenditure on women farmers. These schemes include Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseed & Oil Palm (NMOOP), Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

The Central Sector Scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is being implemented by DA&FW with the aim of providing financial assistance to landholding farmer families including women farmers across the country, subject to certain exclusion criteria.

The Central Sector Scheme 'Namo Drone Didi' for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with an outlay of Rs. 1261 crores has been recently approved. The scheme aims to provide training to 30000 women of 15000 selected Women SHGs on drones for rental services to farmers for agriculture purpose (application of fertilizers and pesticides).

Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is implementing Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) with the aim to empower women by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity, as also to create sustainable livelihoods of rural women. It is a demand driven programme implemented in project mode through the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) as Project Implementing Agencies. The mission has also taken up several measures to encourage women to take up agricultural enterprises for enhancing their income across the country. The large size producer enterprises and producer groups are being promoted to provide encouragement to women entrepreneurs for value addition of agriculture commodities. MoA&FW and MoRD are jointly conducting the training of Krishi Sakhis for promotion of natural farming.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country with mandate of Technology Assessment and Demonstration for its Application and Capacity Building for the farmers. KVKs organize training programs for the benefit of farmers and farm women, rural youth and extension personnel and organize women specific activities on various topics.

State-wise details of research activities conducted by ICAR-CIWA

Issues identified	Steps initiated by ICAR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drudgery in farming activities, occupational health hazards (All States) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ergonomically designed gender friendly tools viz., Head Load Manager, cycle weeder, easy harvest bag, maize sheller, sapling transplanter, UV protective farm apron, paddy grain picker etc. were provided to farm women to make their work comfortable and increase their efficiency and thereby production. • Women led small scale Custom Hiring Centers (25 Nos) in Odisha with members of SHGs were established for drudgery reduction and entrepreneurship development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of availability of women friendly farm tools (Haryana) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource centres have been established on “Ergonomic agricultural small tools and implements” under AICRP adopted villages in 12 states.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of technical knowledge relating to women centric programmes (Assam) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sensitization programmes have been continuously organized for awareness creation in Govt. schemes in agriculture and allied sectors for empowering farm women.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge regarding ICT Applications and combating climate change impacts (Odisha, Rajasthan, Karnataka) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The farm related module particularly diversification, selection of varieties, practices to save water and energy, soil improvement practices proved to be economically beneficial to the selected families. Based on the constraints faced community specific, farm specific, livestock specific and household specific interventions were provided. • Farm Women Knowledge Groups are formed. Intervention programmes are organized to impart knowledge and skills on use of ICT (mainly mobile) for use of ICT in agriculture and allied sectors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge about improved technology and marketing (Punjab) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building programmes are organized for popularization of women friendly technologies and entrepreneurship development covering marketing aspects and SHGs/women groups approach.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevalence of anaemia in women and children (Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Meghalaya) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eighteen number of nutri-dense food products (nutri-dense RTU Mix high calorie, high protein and micronutrient rich convenience mix, nutri-

	<p>dense <i>laddu</i>) were developed and popularized for reducing under nutrition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched "Nutri Smart Villages" prog. in 75 villages across India. • Shree Anna (Millet) Gram- initiated by ICAR-CIWA and all 13 AICRP Centres in 13 states to mainstream millets in lifestyle.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems related to Parenting & Reproductive Health Care (Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • App on Reproductive Health Care & Effective Parenting were developed. Parenting Index for rural families (PIRF) and Intervention package on “Effective parenting of young children” was developed and assessed for its efficacy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability of female farmers for livelihood security. (Bihar) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate interventions through crop-based modules, vermi-compost, horticulture, dairy and vegetable production, apiary, mushroom production, nutritional gardening, goatery, poultry, duckery, fodder and livestock modules etc. have been given for promoting economic returns and livelihood security.

Details of the Studies conducted by Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Sl. No.	Name of the Study	States Covered	Major recommendations
1.	Adoption of Gender Friendly Tools (GFTs) by Women Farmers and its impact on their lives	Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya	Promotion of GFTs for reducing drudgery.
2.	Schemes for Improving Women Farmers' Access to Extension Services and Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture	Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Assam.	Dissemination of success stories of women beneficiaries under various Schemes and Programmes of the Ministry.
3.	Kisan Credit Card and Issues Related to Credit Availability to Women: Role of Financial Institutions and Empowering Women Farmers	Punjab, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra	Gender disaggregated data for lending to women farmers.
