

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 679
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 08/12/2023

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT FOR FARMERS

679. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether Government has developed any new measures for leveraging technological advancements for the welfare of farmers;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard particularly related to issues like weather information, soil conditions and bank payments etc.; and
- (c) the details of the new technological initiatives for resolving grievances of farmers?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Government has taken various steps to provide access to technology and information to the farmers across the country to address the farmer-centric solutions, through various digital initiatives, such as:

- (i) Government is putting in place Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture as an open source, open standard and interoperable public goods as per budget announcements for the 2023-24. In this regard, architecture of three core registries, i.e. Farmer registry, Geo referencing of village maps and crop sown registry has been finalized. Further, government has laid the initiatives to establish Agri Data Exchange, Consent Manager, Sand Box and a Unified Farmer Service Interface (UFSI) to develop various farmer centric solutions by the government as well as private sector entities.
- (ii) National Project on Soil Health and Fertility:-Issuance of soil health cards to farmers of the country, so as to provide a basis to address nutrient deficiencies in fertilization practices. The Soil Health Card Portal helps farmers to track soil samples.
- (iii) Under PM KISAN Scheme, fund is transferred into the bank accounts of the eligible farmers through 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 they can also see the history of benefits transferred to their bank accounts. Recently, face authentication feature has also been included in PM-KISAN mobile App for ease of doing eKYC by farmers.

- (iv) Several new technological initiatives have been taken under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana such as Yield Estimation System, based on Technology (YES-Tech), Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) and door to door enrollment app AIDE/Sahayak. YES-TECH, a technology-driven yield estimation system, offers methodologies, best practices, and integration insights for accurate yield assessments at the Gram Panchayat level. WINDS Portal is a centralized platform that hosts, manages, and processes hyper-local weather data collected by Automatic Weather Stations and Rain Gauges at Taluk/Block and Gram Panchayat levels. The portal enhances risk assessment and decision-making in crop insurance, agriculture advisories, and disaster mitigation, supporting the agricultural sector and rural economy.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF): AIF was launched to mobilize a medium to long term debt finances, facilitate investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and provide community farming assets through incentives and financial support in order to improve agriculture infrastructure in the country. Financial assistance is provided digitally in the form of Interest Subvention and Credit Guarantee for setting up post- harvest management Infrastructure to beneficiaries such as Farmers, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHG), State Agencies/APMCs.
- (vii) National Mission on Horticulture: It Promotes holistic development of Horticulture sector (including bamboo & coconut) HORTNET project is a web enabled work flow- based system for providing financial assistance under MIDH. It is a unique intervention to accomplish e-Governance in NHM where-in total transparency has been envisaged in all the processes of workflow i.e., online application filing, authentication, processing and online payment to the beneficiary's bank account through DBT.
- (viii) To create awareness on use of Kisan Drones, the government under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) is providing financial assistance for its purchase and demonstration on the farmers' fields. To promote technology in the rural development and agriculture sectors, government has approved 15 thousand drones to women through Self-Help Groups. Drone Didi program enhances the women's capabilities to improve their livelihood opportunities.

These initiatives aim at enhancing interoperability and convergence of efforts, fostering the development of applications in the agricultural sector using emerging technologies. Further, to complement these efforts and create opportunities for public-private partnerships, a Screening Committee has been constituted to invite Expressions of Interest from non-government entities and to recommend suitable entities for collaborative work with government.
