

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 26
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02/02/2024

ATMANIRBHAR CLEAN PLANT PROGRAMME FOR HORTICULTURE CROPS

26. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

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

- (a) whether Government has launched an "Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme" to improve availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high-value horticultural crops, if so, the details thereof including the objectives;
- (b) the total outlay for the programme;
- (c) the area under horticulture in the country and production as on 31st December, 2023;
- (d) whether India is a top producer of many fruits, yet its contribution in exports is not upto mark, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of Clean Plant Centres established in the country; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by Government for development and strengthening of horticulture?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) & (b): In order to promote the availability of disease free, quality planting material of high value horticultural crops, Government has initiated "Atma Nirbhar Clean Plant Programme" at an estimated cost of Rs.2200 crore for a period of 7 years (2024-30) with 50% assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The objectives of Atma Nirbhar Clean Plant Programme are:

- i. To enhance yield of horticulture crops by providing disease free planting material, dissemination and adoption of climate resilient varieties.
- ii. To protect ecosystem through proactive virus and disease control measures by establishing Clean Plant Centres (CPCs).
- iii. To enhance stakeholder capacities for the adoption and operation of clean plant production, maintenance, and distribution.
- iv. To improve the knowledge network among research institutes, universities, knowledge centers, national and state agencies for sustainable operation of clean plant centers and nursery certification programs.

(c): As per the Third Advanced Estimates of 2022-23, the area under horticulture crops is 283.37 lakh ha and production is 3552.51 lakh MT in the country.

(d): As per the available information, India is largest producer of fruits like Banana, Mango, Guava, Lemon, Lime and Papaya. Export of fruits from India to the World for past five years are as follows:

Year	Quantity (in MT)	Value (in Million USD)
2018-19	684097.09	692.07
2019-20	755578.55	668.85
2020-21	887975.12	674.53
2021-22	1068518.72	776.93
2022-23	983128.94	770.70

An increasing trend has been observed in exports of fruits during the past few years. However, decline has been noted in the year 2022-23 due the non-availability of air space (cargo) in major airlines destined for exports, higher freight rates (sea and air), high import tariff by some countries like Bangladesh which is major destination for export and lack of sea protocol for exports of horticulture produce.

(e): At present, there are no Clean Plant Centres established in the country.

(f): Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, bamboo and cocoa. Measures being taken under MIDH for promotion of horticulture sector are as under:

- **Plantation Infrastructure Development:** Setting up of nurseries, tissue culture units for production of quality seed and planting material.
- **Area expansion:** Establishment of new orchards and gardens for fruits, vegetables, spices and flowers with integration (i.e. including drip irrigation) and without integration.
- **Rejuvenation:** Rejuvenation of unproductive, old, and senile orchards.
- **Protected cultivation:** Creation of structures like poly-house, green-house, shade net house, walk in tunnels (including micro irrigation facilities) etc.
- **Promotion of Organic farming:** Promotion of organic farming, certification and establishment of vermi compost unit.
- **Creation of water resources:** Creation of Community tanks/on farm ponds/on farm water reservoirs and water harvesting system for individuals.
- **Pollination support through bee keeping:** Production of nucleus stock, bee colonies, honey bee colony, bee hives, equipments etc.
- **Horticulture Mechanization:** Promotion of horticulture mechanization through supply of Power tillers, Tractors, Plant protection equipments etc.
- **Human Resource Development:** Includes activities like awareness programme, farmers training, exposure visit, study tours etc.
- **Post Harvest Management (PHM) infrastructure:** Includes Cold storage/C.A. storage, Pack houses, Ripening chamber, Reefer vehicles, Primary / Mobile/ Minimal processing unit, preservation unit and Food processing (only for North Eastern States).
- **Marketing Infrastructure:** Include creation of Static/mobile vending cart/platform, retail outlets, Rural and primary markets/ Apni Mandi/Direct markets, wholesale and terminal markets etc.
