

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 4
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02/02/2024

WATER MANAGEMENT THROUGH MICRO IRRIGATION

4. SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of potential for increasing the area of Rabi crops cultivation by water management through micro irrigation technique;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (c): There is potential for increasing the area of *Rabi* crops cultivation by water management through micro-irrigation technique. As informed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), there is an average 32-40% saving in water using micro-irrigation as compared to surface irrigation. Hence, the saved water can be used for increasing the area under *rabi* crops through micro-irrigation technique.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare implemented the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the Country from the year 2015-16 to 2021-22 as a component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). From the year 2022-23, the scheme is being implemented under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). PDMC scheme focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation, namely, Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation systems.

Financial Assistance @ 55% for Small & Marginal farmers and @ 45% for Other farmers is provided by the Government for installation of Micro Irrigation under the Scheme. In addition, some States provide additional incentives/top up subsidy for encouraging farmers to adopt Micro Irrigation.

Further, 25% higher unit cost is taken into consideration for calculation of subsidy for the North Eastern and Himalayan states and 15% higher for States with low penetration of Micro Irrigation for larger adoption of Micro Irrigation systems by the farmers under the PDMC scheme.

Farmers are encouraged to take advantage of the PDMC scheme by giving wide publicity to the scheme through press & print media, publication of leaflets/booklets, organization of workshops, exhibitions, farmer fairs, information on State/Government of India web portals etc.

An area of 83.46 lakh hectare has been covered under Micro Irrigation in the Country with release of Central Assistance of Rs. 19363.20 crore to the States through PDMC Scheme from 2015-16 to till date.

To facilitate the States in mobilising resources for expanding coverage of micro irrigation, Government of India has created Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with initial corpus of Rs. 5000 Crore. States can avail loan from MIF for taking up special and innovative projects for expanding coverage of Micro Irrigation and also for incentivising micro irrigation beyond the provisions available under PDMC scheme to encourage farmers. Government of India provides interest subvention @3% on the loan availed by the States which is met from PDMC Scheme.

ICAR is engaged in research and promotion of micro irrigation through all India coordinated programmes, consortia platforms and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). It has developed optimum drip irrigation schedules for different crops in different agro-ecological regions of the country. Further, drip fertigation schedules for 24 crops have been developed for efficient use of water, thereby, bringing more area under micro irrigation. ICAR also imparts training, organizes field demonstrations to educate farmers, administrators and other stakeholders on all these aspects.
