

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 832
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 09/02/2024

SUPPORT TO FARMERS OF GUJARAT

832. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:

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

- (a) the details of the efforts made to strengthen market linkages for farmers in Gujarat, facilitating fair pricing and market access for their produce;
- (b) whether Government is assisting farmers in Gujarat in adapting to changing weather patterns and ensuring crop resilience in light of climate change;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to address the concerns of Gujarat's farmers regarding the availability and affordability of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (d): The Government of India has launched the Central Sector Scheme of "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)" to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs till 2027-28. As of now 391 FPOs have been formed in the State of Gujarat under the said scheme.

FPOs are being facilitated with market linkages both offline and online market. In the offline linkages, FPOs are promoting & selling various agricultural produce through Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets, local traders, mela's /exhibitions. Further FPOs are being on- boarded on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform for online marketing linkages. In Gujarat, till date 130 FPOs have been on-boarded on ONDC.

Further, in order to strengthen market linkages across the country facilitating fair pricing and market access for their produce to farmers/FPOs etc., Government of India has launched National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) in April 2016. e-NAM is a pan-India electronic trading (e-trading) portal which seeks to network the existing physical APMCs through a virtual platform to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. e-NAM is a "virtual" market, but it has a physical market (mandi) at the back end. As on 31.12.2023, 1389 mandis across 23 States and 4 UTs are integrated with e-NAM which includes 144 mandis of Gujarat. As on 31.12.2023, 8.6 Lakh

farmers, 10,140 Traders and more than 200 FPOs have registered themselves on e-NAM portal in the State of Gujarat.

As per the information received from Director of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat, Directorate of agriculture has prepared a contingency crop plan for each year to educate and guide the farmers for the cultivation of suitable crops and its variety on the basis of the recommendation of the State Agriculture Universities. It includes recommendations of all crops and varieties suitable for all contingent conditions, where in it provides information on climate resilient crops and varieties. Farmers are educated and guided in farmers shivir/ training/ meeting regarding the use of climate resilient crops and varieties to mitigate the condition arise due to climate change.

As per the information received from Director of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat, Directorate of agriculture, State prepositions the stock of seed & fertilizer for availability of the seed and also monitors for affordability of agricultural inputs. As reported, the State of Gujarat has sufficient availability of seeds during the last three years.

Further, Government of India organizes the Zonal Seeds Review meetings prior to each sowing seasons i.e. Kharif and Rabi to assess the requirement and availability of seeds in the country.

Government of India as well as state Governments also supports FPO's (under the 10,000 FPOs scheme) in getting various input licenses and dealerships such as Seeds, Fertilizers, and pesticides, etc. for making availability of agricultural inputs at affordable rates. As on date, 78 FPOs have received Fertilizer license, 95 FPOs have received seed licenses & 81 FPOs have received Pesticide licenses in Gujarat. 42 FPOs in Gujarat have also received dealership of National Seeds Corporation (NSC).
