

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2887
ANSWERED ON- 20/12/2024

PROMOTION OF ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES

2887. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to increase the yield of crops;
- (b) the details of initiatives in place to promote the use of advanced agricultural technologies such as precision farming and drip irrigation in Punjab; and
- (c) the details of steps taken to educate and train farmers in Punjab about the benefits of digital platforms for marketing their produce?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed 283 foodgrain varieties and 99 horticultural varieties in 2023-24 to enhance crop yield. Government is committed to improve India's food security through the development of varieties, refining production practices, and creating awareness among farmers. Besides, the Government promotes advanced agricultural technologies and practices including Kisan Drones, climate-resilient varieties, integrated farming system models, micro-irrigation, precision farming, bio-fortified varieties, and digital marketing for improving agricultural growth and productivity.

(b): The government is promoting the use of advanced agricultural technologies like drip irrigation, precision farming, digital marketing, etc. through centrally sponsored schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Nam0 Drone Didi, Krishionnati Yojna, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization, etc. in collaboration with states.

ICAR through its research institutes took initiatives to demonstrate the use of drone in the farmers' field of SAS Nagar and Ropar Districts of Punjab for application of agrochemical and fertilizers to improve the resource use efficiency. Adoption of underground pipeline system resulted in 21.3 and 21.0 cubic meter of water could be saved per hectare in paddy and wheat, respectively. Alternate use of good quality and saline water with an 80.0% recommended dose of nitrogen (105 kg N per ha) under surface drip is recommended on sandy loam soil to sustain seed cotton yield with a minimal adverse effect on soil quality in South-Western Punjab. The fertigation schedules were developed for tomato and brinjal crops using a surface drip irrigation system. Irrigation and fertigation schedules are developed for Kinnow and Guava fruit crops using a surface drip irrigation system and technology transferred to State Govt. Department for the large-scale adoption of drip irrigation system in the state of Punjab.

(c): The e-NAM (National Agriculture Marketing), an online trading platform, has been developed to educate farmers of the country including Punjab. Training programs for creating awareness regarding e-NAM are organized for farmers, agricultural extension officers and other stakeholders in Punjab to educate them about the benefits of digital platform.

In this regard, total 889 awareness programs have been conducted since launch of e-NAM platform in 2016 and 56183 farmers have been trained in Punjab till 30th Nov 2024.
