

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2903
ANSWERED ON- 20/12/2024

MEASURES TO TACKLE PROBLEM OF SALINITY IN AGRICULTURE

2903. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) the measures implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (ICAR-CSSRI) Karnal, in partnership with the Maharashtra and Gujarat Governments, to tackle the salinity problem that is impacting agricultural productivity; and
- (b) the measures ICAR has implemented in partnership with Government of Maharashtra to promote agricultural activities and improve farming yields in the hilly regions of Maharashtra, the details thereof, district-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a): To tackle the salinity problem impacting agricultural productivity in the State of Gujarat, ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal has developed sub-surface drainage (SSD) technology for reclamation of waterlogged saline black soils and demonstrated in Surat district (Mulad village, Mahi-Kadana and Ukai-Kakrapar command area). Technology for conjunctive use of canal and groundwater to minimise re-salinisation and sodification in the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam command area has been provided to the line department. Salt-tolerant variety of wheat (KRL 210), grass /fodder species, suckers of *Dichanthium annulatum*, desi cotton (G. Cot 23) are also promoted. Further, ICAR-CSSRI has participated in different public campaign, awareness programs, events, seminars organized by state agencies.

For the state of Maharashtra, CSSRI, Karnal has standardised sub-surface drainage technology and implemented in Sangli and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra covering 1250 ha area for reclamation of waterlogged saline areas. Similarly, 6,840 ha has been treated with sub-surface drainage (SSD) technology in Neera canal command area. ICAR-CSSRI assessed salt affected soils of Purna valley in Maharashtra and submitted recommendations for reclamation of salt affected soils under the Project on Climate Resilient Agriculture (POCRA) and evaluated salt tolerant lines of Wheat in Purna valley area.

(b): ICAR has implemented the following measures to promote agricultural activities and improve farming yields in the hilly regions of Maharashtra;

- ICAR under National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) has demonstrated climate resilient technologies in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra through KVK. The evaluated technologies suitable for hilly zones of Maharashtra have been shared with the state department. ICAR has provided high resolution land resource inventory to DoA, under Project on Climate Resilient Agriculture (POCRA) for 16 districts covering 5274 villages.

- '**Konkan Jalkund**' and '**Vijay Bandhera**' water storage technologies have been standardised for hilly regions of Maharashtra. In the last nine years, 1525 *Jalkunds* have been constructed in 102 villages and 62 *Bandheras* have been constructed in 33 villages.
- During the last ten years (2014-2024) 108 Oilseeds, 58 Pulses, 5 cotton and 61 Forage crops varieties suitable for Maharashtra including hilly regions have been released and breeder seeds of these varieties as per indent have been supplied.
- ICAR has developed and recommended different agroforestry systems for the hilly region of Maharashtra.
- ICAR has developed and demonstrated improved technologies for commercial floriculture, developed a dedicated pomegranate cluster in the Mann region of Satara district.
- Conducted 10338 frontline demonstrations and given training to 36 lakh farmers on various crop production technologies. ICAR has conducted trainings in the hilly region of Palghar and distributed quality planting material of foliage and flowering plants. Conducted 720 field demonstrations, trained more than 5000 tribal farmers and organized 41 field days/trainings on improved Onion and Garlic production technologies in Nandurbar and Pune districts.
