

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 482**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

**SPECIAL SCHEME TO PROMOTE DROUGHT RESISTANT CROPS**

482. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:

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

- (a) whether Government has launched any special scheme to promote drought-resistant crops in rain-shadow areas of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details of adoption rate and success of these schemes among farmers; and
- (c) the measures being taken to enhance water conservation and irrigation facilities for farmers in drought-prone areas of Maharashtra?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Rainfed Area Development (RAD) across the country including Maharashtra from 2014-15. RAD was launched on 01.04.2014 as a component National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). RAD focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability. Under RAD, crops/cropping system is integrated with activities like horticulture, livestock, fishery, agro-forestry, apiculture etc. to enable farmers, not only in maximizing farm returns for sustaining livelihood but also to mitigate the impacts of drought, flood or other extreme weather events. So far, 0.61 lakh hectare rainfed area has been brought under IFS in the State of Maharashtra with expenditure of Rs. 187.22 crore under RAD.

During the last 10 years (2014-2024), a total 716 of field crop varieties have been developed and notified for Maharashtra by National Agricultural Research System (NARES), under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Out of these 716 of field crop varieties, 65 varieties are Drought tolerant /moisture stress tolerant/water stress tolerant/ limited water tolerant/low rainfall tolerant field crop varieties.

(c): Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the Country including Maharashtra from 2015-16. PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems.

Under PDMC, since the inception of the Scheme from 2015-16, 10,25,758 Ha area have been covered under Micro Irrigation in 34 districts of Maharashtra. Central assistance of Rs. 2606.55 crore have been released to the State of Maharashtra since 2015-16.

Government of Maharashtra is providing subsidy to rainfed area farmers for protective irrigation through farm ponds, wells, drip, sprinkler, pipes and pumps through various centrally sponsored schemes like Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and state sponsored schemes like Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Krishi Swavlamban Yojana & Birsa Munda Krishi kranti Yojana.

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