

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 499**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29/11/2024

**DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN AGRICULTURE IN ODISHA**

499. SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY:

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

- (a) the efforts undertaken to introduce precision farming and digital tools in Odisha to improve productivity and crop management;
- (b) the extent to which farmers in Odisha have been trained in the use of digital platforms and agricultural technology for better crop yield; and
- (c) whether any pilot project has been initiated in Odisha that involves satellite or Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions for agricultural productivity?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): The adoption of precision farming technologies by the farmers depends on various factors such as socioeconomic conditions, geographical conditions, crop grown, irrigation facilities etc. However, the Government of India supports and facilitates the State Governments including the state of Odisha to promote agriculture throughout the country and infusing modern and smart farming technologies into the agriculture sector. The use of modern machines including kisan drones is promoted under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization.

Agristack project is a major component of Digital Agriculture Mission approved by the Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2024. It consists of three foundational registries or databases in the agriculture sector, i.e., the Farmers' Registry, Geo-referenced village maps and the Crop Sown Registry, all created and maintained by the State Governments/ Union Territories. This will help farmers avail services in a seamless and contactless manner. The Government is providing administrative and technical supports to all the states including Odisha for implementation of the Mission.

Under Digital Agriculture Mission, funding is also given to State Governments for Digital Agriculture Projects using emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning (AI/ML), Internet of Things (IOT), Blockchain etc.

A component called “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” has been launched under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY-RAFTAAR) in 2018-19 with the objective of promoting innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem. Under this programme, start-ups are encouraged to use innovative technologies to resolve challenges faced in agriculture and allied sectors.

Further, Central Government has employed Artificial Intelligence (AI) methods to address various challenges in the agricultural sector to aid farmers including the state of Odisha. Some of the initiatives are given below:

- I. ‘Kisan e-Mitra’ an AI-powered chatbot to assist farmers with queries about the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. This solution supports multiple languages and is evolving to assist with other government programs.
- II. National Pest Surveillance System for tackling the loss of produce due to climate change. This system utilizes AI and Machine Learning to detect crop issues, enabling timely intervention for healthier crops.

\*\*\*\*\*