

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 512**  
ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

**ISSUES OF SMALL AND FRAGMENTED LAND HOLDINGS**

512 SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to address productivity loss due to 86.2 per cent of operational holdings being marginal, limiting economies of scale, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government plans to reduce high production costs for farmers with small and fragmented holding, if so, the specific financial assistance or incentive provided; and
- (c) whether Government considered regional disparities in land fragmentation and tailored its approach to address the specific needs of different regions, and if so, the details of region-specific initiatives, State-wise?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): Government is implementing a number of schemes and programmes to increase the productivity. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare through its various programmes and schemes has targeted to bring in production efficiency for small and marginal farmers in the country. Sustainable farming practices, prototype integrated farming system models and organic farming packages cropping systems have been developed to provide technological backstopping to small and fragmented land holdings. The developed models increase the income of the farmers with cost reduction for inputs related to fertilizers.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting research programme to develop location specific varieties and technologies for enhancing the production and productivity of farm holdings. Further, the ICAR, through its research Institutions undertakes research for developing technologies accessible to marginal and small farmers. Government promotes high-value crops and animal husbandry, which generate more returns, compared to staple food crops.

Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research (IIFSR) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) implements All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) for development and refinement of farm technologies for use of small and marginal farmers in the country.

Agrarian reforms like Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) can enable small farmers to pool resources, reduce the inefficiencies of small plot farming, and increase productivity. Further, collectivization and consolidation of land could be targeted by encouraging voluntary consolidation of lands and fragmented plots, thereby FPOs as a farmer institution would have more economically viable landholdings for their operation. This could be facilitated through group farming models or land pooling schemes, wherein individual farmer member retains land ownership but manage the land collectively through FPOs to benefit from economies of scale by managing fragmented land efficiently and effectively.

As a strategy for aggregation, so that the farmers get better price for their produce, the Government has launched in 2020 the 10,000 Farmers Producers Organization (FPOs) Programs for promotion where in 9,204 FPOs have already been registered with 23.77 lakh farmers as on 31.10.2024.

Support is also provided to farmers (including small and marginal farmers) through initiatives and programmes of the Government like Interest Subvention Scheme, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) & Rainfed Area Development (RAD) Programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) etc.

Land and agriculture are the state subjects, as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments. Further, Government of India supplements the efforts of States, through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

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