

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.315
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/03/2025

SUPPORT TO FARMERS FOR MAXIMIZING YIELDS OF KEY CROPS

*315. SHRI KUNWAR RATANJEET PRATAP NARAYAN SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has recorded an increase in the area sown for Rabi crops this season as compared to last year, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the initiatives being taken to support farmers in maximizing yields of key crops such as wheat and pulses;
- (c) the manner in which Government plans to ensure adequate supply of essential fertilizers for Rabi crops;
- (d) whether there are any measures in place to promote the cultivation of millets and coarse cereals, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which these efforts align with Government's broader agricultural policies to enhance food security?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 315 FOR 28/03/2025 REGARDING “SUPPORT TO FARMERS FOR MAXIMIZING YIELDS OF KEY CROPS”

(a): Yes, there is an increase in the sown area for Rabi crops during current agricultural year. As per the Second Advance Estimate 2024-25, the area under rabi crops is estimated at 660.64 L.Ha. (Foodgrains & Oilseeds), registering an increase of 10.85 Lakh ha as compared to previous year rabi area of 649.79 L.Ha. This increase in area is majorly attributed to increased area sown under crops such as Rice, Wheat, Maize, Gram and other pulses as compared to last year. The details of area under rabi crops during current year vis-a-vis last year is given at **Annexure**.

(b) to (e): In order to increase the production and productivity of crops the Government of India is implementing various central and centrally sponsored schemes covering entire spectrum of agriculture including credit, insurance, income support, infrastructure, crops (including horticulture), seeds, farm mechanization, produce marketing, organic and natural farming, irrigation, extension services etc. The details of select major schemes pertaining to agricultural productivity is given as under:

The National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) is implemented in 28 States and 2 Union Territories (UTs) viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to promote the production of Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals and Millets. The objective of NFSNM is to increase production of foodgrains through area expansion and productivity enhancement. Under this scheme, the incentives are provided to the farmers, through the States/UTs, on crop production and protection technologies, cropping system-based demonstrations, distribution of certified seeds of newly released varieties/hybrids, integrated nutrient and pest management techniques, improved farm implements/tools/resource conservation machineries, water saving devices, capacity building of farmers through trainings during cropping season, etc.

Further, Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under Pradhan Mantri – Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) is being implemented in original green revolution states viz., Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh (UP) to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri-cereals and cotton. Under CDP, assistance is given for alternative crops demonstration, farm mechanisation and value addition, site specific activities and contingency for awareness & capacity building etc.

The Ministry in order to increase productivity, adopt latest variety of seeds advises the States and seed producing agencies from time to time to place the breeder seeds indents of newly released High Yielding Varieties (HYVs), stress tolerant varieties (drought, flood and salinity) including stress tolerant/ climate resilient /smart varieties (to tackle the challenges of climate changes more effective way) of different crops developed by ICAR Institutes /State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) etc. for further multiplication into foundation and certified seeds, so as to make available required seeds of these crops varieties to the farmers to enhance agricultural production, productivity and also to help farmers' profitability in the country. Further, Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Materials (SMSP) is implemented from the year 2014-15 onwards to promote production and multiplication of quality seeds of agricultural crops, so that the required quantities of seeds could be made available to farmers in the country. SMSP has now been merged with NFSNM during the year 2023-24.

ICAR is promoting climate resilient technologies in wheat and pulses through demonstrations, prepared and disseminated block level contingency plans and released climate resilient / abiotic stress tolerant varieties of wheat and pulses. During last 10 years (2014-2024), a total of 2593 varieties have been released by ICAR, out of these 2177 varieties have been found tolerant to one or more biotic and/or abiotic stresses.

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is also implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) from 2015-16 onwards. PDMC focuses on enhancing water-use efficiency at farm-level through Micro Irrigation viz. Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. The Micro Irrigation helps in saving water as well as reduced fertilizer usage (through fertigation), labour expenses, other input costs and thereby, creating overall income enhancement of farmers. Further, NITI Aayog conducted an evaluation study on PDMC scheme during the year 2021, which revealed that productivity increased in the range of 9% to 100% for various crops in different States through adoption of micro irrigation.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, wherein States have been provided flexibility and autonomy for selection, planning, approval and execution of projects under the scheme in areas of Agriculture and allied sectors as per need, priorities and agro-climatic requirements.

Further, in order to ensure the adequate availability of good quality of fertilizers to the farmers, Government of India in consultation with State Government/ UTs assess

the requirement of major fertilizers, namely urea, DAP, MOP, complexes and SSP fertilizers, during the Zonal Conference organised by DA&FW before each cropping season (viz. Rabi and Kharif). At the conference, the State Governments/UTs present their projected requirements for major fertilizers. The requirement of fertilizers is assessed taking into account the projected gross cropped area, irrigated area, last three seasons' consumption pattern and crop wise recommended dose of fertilizers as per soil Health fertility status etc. After the assessment of fertilizer for the season, month-wise requirements of fertilizer is collected from the State Government & then the state-wise month-wise requirement is intimated to the Department of Fertilizers to ensure seamless availability of fertilizers before the start of the cropping season.

These initiatives aim to enhance productivity and promote sustainable agriculture, aligning with the broader objectives of food security and farmer welfare.

[Part (A) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 315 Dated 28.03.2025]

Area under Rabi Crops 2024-25

Crop	Area under Rabi Crops (Lakh Ha)	
	2023-24	2024-25*
Rice	40.76	43.12
Wheat	318.33	326.06
Maize	21.75	22.92
Barley	5.51	6.17
Jowar	27.36	24.77
Cereals	413.72	423.03
Gram	95.87	99.41
Urad	5.89	6.08
Moong	1.38	1.34
Lentil	17.43	17.38
Other Pulses	16.82	18.21
Total Pulses	137.39	142.43
Total Food Grains	551.11	565.46
Groundnut	3.42	4.03
Sesamum	0.49	0.42
Sunflower	0.53	0.63
Rapeseed & Mustard	91.83	87.58
Linseed	1.75	1.88
Safflower	0.65	0.64
Total Oil Seeds	98.68	95.18
Total Area	649.79	660.64

* - As per Second Advance Estimates | Source: DA&FW
