

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3223
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/03/2025

Promoting of women farmers in agriculture sector

3223 Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh:

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

- (a) whether Government has launched any scheme to provide facilities to women farmers for the development of agriculture areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated and spent for the said purposes in the country during the last five years, State-wise/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide training to women farmers to make them updated with the latest farming technologies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to increase the participation of women farmers in agriculture sector?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government is implementing various schemes and programmes for farmers including women Farmers as per eligibility and conditions existing in scheme guidelines. The guidelines of the various beneficiary oriented schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) provide that States and other implementing agencies should incur expenditure on women. The schemes include Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms(ATMA), National Food Security and Nutrition Mission(NFSNM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), National Mission for Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-OS), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region(MOVCDNER), Digital Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing, National Bamboo Mission (NBM).

ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (CIWA), Bhubaneswar conducts research to address gender issues in agriculture. As per its mandate, ICAR-CIWA implements various initiatives to empower women farmers, improving their well-being and agricultural productivity viz. (i) Nutri Smart Villages is an Innovative Programme for Strengthening Poshan Abhiyan & (ii) National Flagship programme of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan Programme to disseminate the women friendly technologies to farm women and enhancing livelihood security among farm families. The details of fund allocated and spent is annexed at Annexure-I.

The 'Namo Drone Didi' Scheme is implemented as a Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs.1261 Crores for period of 3 years (2023-24 to 2025-26).The major aims and objectives of the scheme is to promote advance technology in agriculture to improve efficiency, enhance crop yield, reduce cost of operation and to empower Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) as drone service providers for increasing their income and providing livelihood support to them. The scheme aims to provide 15,000 Drones to Women SHGs.

Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) is a sub-scheme under DAY-NRLM being implemented by Ministry of Rural Development in partnership of States and UTs.The Farm Livelihoods initiative under MKSP is dedicated to empowering women in agriculture by strengthening community institutions of women farmers and leveraging their collective strength to promote sustainable agricultural practices, improved livestock management, and scientific cultivation/collection of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFPs). To enhance market access for Mahila Kisans, efforts have been made to facilitate the formation of producer collectives such as Producer Groups and Producer Companies. These collectives enable aggregation at the post-farm gate level, value addition, and improved market linkages through advanced technology and access to essential input services. The details of fund utilized is annexed at Annexure-II.

(c) to (e): A total of 4.45 crore Mahila Kisans have been supported under Farm Livelihoods component of DAY-NRLM across the country facilitating the adoption of agro-ecological practices. A robust network of 3.41 lakh livelihood Community Resource Persons, including Krishi Sakhi (for sustainable agriculture), Pashu Sakhi (for livestock management), Van Sakhi (for NTFP collection and cultivation), and Matshya Sakhi (for fisheries interventions), has been established to provide field- level support and knowledge dissemination.

In order to update women with the latest techniques in Agriculture and allied sectors, training is being imparted to women farmers under various schemes of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare. These include Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms (ATMA) under Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension in Agriculture and allied areas are also being conducted for farmers and women farmers. Presently, Scheme is being implemented in 740 districts of 28 states & 5 UTs in the country. Under the scheme Grants-in-Aid is released to the State Governments with an objective to support State Government's efforts to make available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sector among farmers including women farmers. Under SMAE, the Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) to train input dealers including women and Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) of rural youth including women are implemented in agriculture and allied sectors.

ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar, provides training to women farmers by organizing capacity-building programs on women-friendly technologies, drudgery-reducing tools, income generation, and nutritional security for farm women and families. The Government has set up 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the Country under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to promote the use of latest technologies and practices of agriculture and allied sectors among the farmers including women farmers. A large number of extension activities are taken up by the KVKs. The KVKs impart training to farmers including women farmers on various agriculture areas.

The DA&FW has established 4 Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes (FMTTIs) at Budni (MP), Hisar (Haryana), Anantapur (AP) & Biswanath Chariali (Assam). These institutes are imparting training and awareness of schemes, Agricultural machinery and equipment to the farmers including women farmers, ITI/Graduate students, entrepreneurs on Agricultural Machinery Management and operation of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs).

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), a Central Sector Scheme is being implemented to provide financial assistance to all landholding farmers' families including women farmers across the country, subject to certain exclusion criteria, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs. Under the Scheme, an amount of Rs. 6000/- per year is transferred in three 4-monthly instalments of Rs.2000/- directly into the bank accounts of the farmers including women farmers.

The Ministry is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) and Rainfed Area Development (RAD) schemes. The PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation viz. Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems and RAD focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability. As per guidelines of the both schemes, at least 50% of the allocation is to be utilized for small and marginal farmers of which at least 30% are women beneficiaries/ farmers.

Under Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) Scheme, to promote entrepreneurship, assistance is provided to farmers including women farmers for establishing Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) through State Government departments for providing the services to farmers on rental basis. Under Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization, in order to make available drone services to farmers on rental basis, financial assistance @ 50% of the cost of drone up to a maximum of Rs.5.00 lakhs per drone is provided for purchase of drones by the small and Marginal, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, North Eastern State farmers including women farmers.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which the funds are released to the State Governments as Grants-in-Aid on the basis of projects in Agriculture & allied sectors. RKVY is primarily a project oriented scheme, the benefit of which is available to all sections of the farming community including women farmers.

The Ministry is implementing "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial and technical support for nurturing agri-startups including women farmers.

As part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) was launched in the year 2020 to promote sustainable agriculture by supporting the development of agricultural infrastructure across India. This initiative aims to empower farmers including women farmers and boost their incomes by facilitating medium- to long-term loans through lending institutions at a maximum interest rate of 9%. Under the AIF, loans are offered for infrastructure projects at farm- gate and aggregation points. Additionally, the scheme benefits borrowers from an interest subvention of 3% per annum for a duration of up to seven years for loans up to ₹2 crore. To further support borrowers, the initiative includes credit guarantee support by way of reimbursement of credit guarantee fees for loans up to ₹2 crore for 7 years, reducing the financial risks for both lenders and borrowers. As on 28.02.2025, total 8190 projects amounting to Rs. 2377 crore has been sanctioned to women farmers.

The details of the fund allocated and utilized during last Five years in r/o ICAR-CIWA Bhubaneswar, including AICRP on Women in Agriculture is given below:

(Rs. In Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of Centre	State/UT	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22			2022-23		2023-24
			Fund Allocated	Spent	Fund Allocated	Spent	Fund Allocated	Spent	Fund Allocated	Spent	Fund Allocated	Spent
A	ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar	Odisha	1371.00	1363.34	1441.47	1435.82	1057.78	1054.39	1233.64	1233.63	1412.84	1412.84
B	AICRP on Women in Agriculture											
1	PJTSAU, Hyderabad	Telangana	179.18	131.08	124.37	99.97	139.50	106.62	114.75	110.73	116.66	116.28
2	CCSHAU, Hissar	Haryana	165.68	97.07	97.34	75.73	129.00	103.38	93.74	82.07	90.49	86.85
3	CSKHPKV, Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	187.80	187.80	132.62	132.62	106.50	106.31	168.50	153.43	156.00	153.27
4	GBPUA&T, Pantnagar	Uttarakhand	191.88	190.24	221.12	221.12	237.00	233.89	160.98	137.95	168.00	151.78
5	MPUA&T, Udaipur	Rajasthan	245.63	222.55	197.12	163.73	211.50	180.16	179.50	175.92	203.65	196.38
6	VNMKV, Parbhani	Maharashtra	167.25	95.52	110.12	79.44	124.50	112.23	93.10	70.10	113.25	109.94
7	PAU, Ludhiana	Punjab	185.93	169.74	131.12	123.32	166.50	155.22	134.75	123.02	135.00	134.88
8	UAS, Bangalore	Karnataka	78.75	60.71	76.25	56.87	68.00	64.79	90.59	85.25	79.25	77.26
9	UAS, Dharwad	Karnataka	182.25	139.33	128.37	127.53	151.50	146.29	176.38	160.27	131.00	124.28
10	AAU, Jorhat	Assam	186.30	167.92	154.37	148.38	172.10	160.88	197.58	190.80	172.41	168.94
11	TNAU, Madurai	Tamil Nadu	183.75	152.40	156.62	127.10	146.40	144.56	177.45	141.59	166.00	165.44
12	CAU, Tura	Manipur	163.26	138.49	163.89	149.71	136.10	115.68	75.75	75.23	19.50	19.50
13	Dr. RPCAU, Samastipur	Bihar	106.13	4.37	11.67	8.45	22.50	16.83	30.25	12.79	25.50	25.50
Total			3594.79	3120.56	3146.45	2949.79	2868.88	2701.23	2926.96	2752.78	2989.55	2943.14

Details of MKSP fund released based on State utilization during the FY 2019-20 to till 24.03.2025

(Rs. In Crore)

Sl. No.	State	Release 2019-20	Release 2020-21	Release 2021-22	Release 2022-23	Release 2023-24	Release 2024-25	Total
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.42
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.25	2.25
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	4.12	0.00	1.90	1.80	1.78	9.60
4.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.55	17.55
5.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.36	2.36
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.38	0.00	1.38
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.70	0.75	3.45
10.	Haryana	1.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.62
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.60	7.63	11.23
12.	Jharkhand	8.98	3.49	0.00	5.95	13.12	0.00	31.54
13.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.60	7.58	17.18
14.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.80	1.61	3.41
15.	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.65
16.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.60	9.78	16.38
17.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.13	3.13
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.30	2.30
19.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.60	1.50
20.	Mizoram	0.46	0.00	1.69	0.32	0.90	2.40	5.77
21.	Nagaland	0.00	2.35	1.23	0.00	1.80	3.50	8.88
22.	Odisha	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.30	5.16	17.46
23.	Puducherry	0.00	1.14	0.00	0.58	0.90	1.94	4.56
24.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.60	2.03	3.11
25.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.80	22.40	27.20
26.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.35	0.95	2.30
27.	Telangana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.80	1.60	3.40
29.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
30.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
31.	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.67	0.00		0.00	1.43	2.10
32.	West Bengal	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.93	5.45
	Total	11.58	11.77	3.40	8.75	65.95	104.73	206.18
