

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1446
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01/08/2025

SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR FARMERS

1446. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU

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

- (a) whether any skill development programmes are being run to enhance capacity of farmers in modern techniques, agro-processing or agri-exports;
- (b) the number of farmers trained under such schemes during the last three years;
- (c) whether such programmes are available in Punjab, if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and
- (d) the involvement of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and agri-startups in these initiatives?

ANSWER

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

(a): Government is implementing Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) programme at national level under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE). The component aims at providing short duration skill based training programs to rural youth including farmers on vocational areas in agriculture and allied sectors. There are 55 indicative list of skilling areas available including food processing & value addition, post-harvest management and packaging of fruits & vegetables, installation and maintenance of food processing machinery, beekeeping, vermicomposting, clean milk production, modern methods of production techniques, agro-processing etc.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms’ popularly known as ATMA is being implemented in all 740 districts of 28 states & 5 UTs in the country. The scheme promotes decentralized farmer-friendly extension system 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 use of modern techniques, agro-processing through Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Interest Groups and setting-up of Farm Schools in the field of awardee farmers.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in different States of the Country with the mandate of technology assessment and demonstration for its use and capacity development. As part of its activities, the KVKs impart training to the farmers, farm women and rural youth on different aspects of agriculture and allied sectors (Crop Production, Horticulture, Soil Health and Fertility Management, Livestock Production and Management, Home Science/Women empowerment, Agricultural Engineering, Plant Protection, Fisheries, Production of Inputs at site, Agro forestry) for their capacity building.

(b): The details of farmers trained under the various programmes during the last three years are given below:

Sl. No.	Scheme	Number of Candidates Trained
1.	STRY	45,565
2.	ATMA	1,15,76,893
3.	KVK	5,96,000
Total		1,22,18,458

(c): The STRY programs are organised in different states through State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIs) including Punjab. KVKs also conduct skill training programmes in Punjab. The district-wise number of farmers including rural youth trained under the components is as mentioned below:

Sl. No.	District	Number of Candidates Trained	
		STRY	KVK
1.	Amritsar	121	4412
2.	Bathinda	212	6273
3.	Faridkot	295	4347
4.	Fatehgarh Sahib	47	3586
5.	Fazilka	107	2565
6.	Ferozepur	107	5991
7.	Gurdaspur	28	3107
8.	Hoshiarpur	122	4420
9.	Jalandhar	157	5307
10.	Ludhiana	395	4576
11.	Mansa	60	4226
12.	Moga	182	3436
13.	Muktsar	52	3971
14.	Patiala	52	3797
15.	Rupnagar	128	3641
16.	Sangrur	88	3834
17.	SAS Nagar (Mohali)	235	4220
18.	Tarn Taran	159	6022
19.	Kapurthala	0	3947
20.	Nawanshahar	0	5504
21.	Pathankot	0	8455
22.	Barnala	0	3525
Total		2547	99162

(d): The short duration skill-based training programs are organised by SAMETIs through different training partners including Krishi Vigyan Kendras. KVKs are responsible for designing the program, arranging resource persons, developing training materials and evaluation and certification. The involvement of Krishi Vigyan Kendras of Punjab in collaboration with incubators like the Punjab Agri Business Incubator (PABI) at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, have facilitated structured skill-based training for farmers by leveraging the technical expertise of startups in areas such as crop residue management, bio-inputs, smart irrigation systems, precision farming, and post-harvest value addition. These programmes not only enhance farmers capacity in modern agro-technologies and agro-processing but also help promote agri-exports by aligning training with market demand. The integration of startups into these capacity-building initiatives ensures real-time problem solving, grassroots-level innovation adoption, and the development of entrepreneurial rural ecosystems.
