GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 532
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

Impact of Climate Change on Maharashtra's agriculture and forests

532.   SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a)   the assessment of climate change effects on agriculture and forest ecosystems in Maharashtra;
(b)   the adaptation and mitigation strategies adopted for climate resilience
(c)   the support provided to farmers and forest-dependent communities; and
(d)   the collaboration with State Government for climate action plans?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH))

(a) to (d) The revised State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) of Maharashtra, incorporates a comprehensive assessment of climate change impacts across 12 key sectors, including agriculture and forests conducted by the Government of Maharashtra. Most districts in Maharashtra are vulnerable to climate events like floods, droughts, and heatwaves.

The Government of Maharashtra has adopted a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach to address the challenge of climate change. The Maharashtra State Action Plan on Climate Change (MH SAPCC) serves as the State's actionable roadmap for achieving climate resilience. The Action Plan includes a diverse range of strategies including –

- increasing the area under Trees Outside Forests;
- increasing the resilience of forests to fires through moisture and water conservation,
- floor biomass management, weed management;
- suppressing fire through training of field staff, fire watchers, and firefighters;
- conservation of biodiversity, forest ecosystem, and protection of habitats;
- design interventions for restoration of mangroves and corals;
- promote climate-friendly tourism (ecotourism),
- developing climate resilient varieties of food grains,

- adoption of heat-tolerant and short-duration varieties of pulses and minor millets

The State of Maharashtra has undertaken several initiatives to enhance the climate resilience of farmers and forest-dependent communities. Some of the key initiatives to support farmers include

- **Project of Climate Resilience Agriculture (PoCRA)**: This initiative, guided by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra, aims to develop a long-term, sustainable drought-proofing and climate-resilient strategy for the agriculture sector.
- **Chief Minister's Task Force for Environment and Sustainable Development:** It is a task force to promote sustainable bamboo cultivation among the state's farmers.
- **Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan (My Earth Campaign) 5.0**: It focuses on identifying activities under the five elements of nature (Pancham ahabuta) for restoration of the lost balance of environment.

The Government of India is implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is one of the missions under NAPCC that aims to make the agriculture sector more resilient to the changing climate.

The Government of India has supported preparation of State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC) in the States and Union Territories including the State of Maharashtra (MH) to address state specific issues related to the climate change.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has initiated various schemes under NMSA to deal with the adverse climatic situations. Some of these schemes are, Per Drop More Crop (PDMC), Rainfed Area Development (RAD), Soil Health Card (SHC) / Soil Health Management (SHM), Paramparagat Krishi VikasYojana (PKVY), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Agroforestry & National Bamboo Mission also aim to increase climate resilience in agriculture.

The Government is also implementing a network project, namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), which aims to study the impact of climate change on agriculture, including crops, and promote climate resilient technologies to cope with weather extremes

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