

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 664
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/12/2025

PROMOTING PRECISION FARMING TECHNOLOGIES IN ODISHA'S TRIBAL DISTRICTS

664. SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry will consider promoting Precision Farming Technologies, including drones and IoT-based sensors, for small and marginal farmers in Odisha's tribal districts; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is actively promoting the adoption of new and emerging technologies in agriculture such as precision farming, drone technology, climate smart agriculture, Artificial Intelligence (AI) through several schemes and initiatives in the States/UTs including the state of Odisha.

Under the National E-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA) component of the Digital Agriculture Mission, funding is given to the States/UTs for digital agriculture projects using emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), Internet of Things (IOT) sensor based systems etc.

Under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), individual small and marginal farmers, as well as women farmers are provided 50% subsidy (up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs) for purchasing drones. Financial assistance is also provided to establish Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), which provide agricultural machinery including drones and other precision farming equipment on rent to farmers who cannot afford individual ownership. As per the information provided by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment, Directorate of Agriculture & Food Production, Government of Odisha, three beneficiaries in Balangir and Kalahandi districts of Odisha have been supplied drones so far under SMAM in the Financial Year 2025-26.

The Government approved Central Sector Scheme 'NAMO DRONE DIDI' for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with a view to provide sustainable business and livelihood support to them. Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) have distributed 1094 drones to drone didis of SHGs in 2023-24 using their internal resources. Out of these drones, 16 numbers of drones have been supplied in the State of Odisha.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions are actively involved in research on indigenous precision farming technologies and dissemination of this knowledge through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). During the period from 2023-24 to 2025-26 (as on 30 November 2025), the ICAR through three Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and four ICAR institutions have conducted drone demonstrations on the farmers' fields in 1408 hectare area benefitting 9654 farmers of seven districts of Odisha.
