

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2420
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/03/2026

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

2420. SHRI K.R SURESH REDDY:

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

- (a) the percentage of female workforce employed in agriculture, State/UT wise;
- (b) the percentage of women employed in agriculture, that receive wages, State/UT wise;
- (c) the percentage of female farmers that out of total employed in agriculture that have land holding;
- (d) the number of female farmers that have been able to access loan or other credit infrastructure, State wise;
- (e) the percentage of the female workforce employed in agriculture between 2020 and 2025, year-wise; and
- (f) the Steps taken for increasing women's paid participation in agriculture such as training, credit access and market linkages?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b): As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS-2023-24) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the percentage of women workers engaged in the agriculture and allied sector during 2023-24 for each State/UT is given at Annexure-I.

(c): As per the Agriculture Census 2015-16 conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, out of 14,64,53,741 total operational holdings, 2,04,39,148 operational holdings were held by female operational holdings. This indicates that female farmers accounted for around 13.9 percent of the total number of operational holdings in the country.

(d): The number of female account holders who have accessed agricultural credit under the KCC-MISS Scheme during the last three scheme years as reported by banks on Kisan Rin Portal (KRP) is placed at Annexure-II.

(e): As per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS-2023-24), the percentage of female working in agriculture and allied sector at the all-India level for five years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 are given at Annexure-III.

(f): The Government imparts training to farmers including women farmers on various aspects of agriculture and allied sectors under Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) scheme. Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme supports State Government's efforts and to make available latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied areas to farmers through different extension activities viz; Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of farmers groups and organizing Farm Schools . Ministry is implementing capital investment subsidy sub-scheme "Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)" under Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM). Under the Scheme, subsidy is provided for (i) Storage Infrastructure, and (ii) Marketing Infrastructure other than storage, to the eligible beneficiaries include Individuals, Group of farmers/growers including women, Self Help Group (SHG) Cooperatives, Cooperative Marketing Federation etc. In order to promote women farmers and entrepreneurs including women Self Help Groups (SHGs), assistance in the form of subsidy is provided to all the women beneficiaries at a higher rate i.e. @33.33% instead of 25%. Under the Formation and Promotion of 10k FPOs scheme, special provisions have been made to empower women by providing special focus to include women farmers/women Self Help Groups (SHGs) as members to make FPOs more effective and inclusive. Under Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centers (AC&ABC) scheme, 44% subsidy of project cost are provided for women, SC/ST/PWD & all categories of candidates from NE and Hill states and 36% of project cost for General category. Under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) programme, as part of farm sector livelihoods strategy, have the objective to empower SHG members as Mahila Kisan through adoption of sustainable practices i.e., Agro Ecological Practices, Enhanced Livestock Management practices, scientific cultivation/collection of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) etc. Under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, as per priority Sector Landing (PSL) regulation government has mandated that banks will provide 18% of their total loans to agriculture and allied sector. Since 2016 a sub limit has been fixed for small and marginal farmers which at present is 10%. In 2018-19, the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility was extended to farmers engaged in allied activities, including animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries. RBI has increased collateral free loan limit in KCC for existing Rs 1.6 lakh to Rs 2 lakh w.e.f., 01.01.2025.

Annexure-I**Percentage of working female in agriculture and allied sector as per PLFS 2023-24.**

State/UT	Percentage of female in agriculture sector*
Andhra Pradesh	56.50
Arunachal Pradesh	75.75
Assam	74.73
Bihar	82.06
Chhattisgarh	77.04
Delhi	0.02
Goa	12.27
Gujarat	61.13
Haryana	45.94
Himachal Pradesh	78.45
Jharkhand	76.57
Karnataka	58.38
Kerala	36.38
Madhya Pradesh	76.77
Maharashtra	59.03
Manipur	46.23
Meghalaya	58.83
Mizoram	50.60
Nagaland	60.60
Odisha	69.50
Punjab	33.97
Rajasthan	74.25
Sikkim	61.13
Tamil Nadu	38.63
Telangana	53.08
Tripura	58.62
Uttarakhand	67.98
Uttar Pradesh	81.83
West Bengal	50.76
Andaman & N. Island	39.02
Chandigarh	0.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	50.85
Jammu & Kashmir	77.76
Ladakh	71.75
Lakshadweep	2.64
Puducherry	13.31
All India	64.36

***Agriculture sector - women engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry.**

Annexure-II

Number of female farmers that have been able to access Agri Credit under KCC-MISS Scheme for the last three Scheme years.

	SY* 2022-23	SY* 2023-24	SY* 2024-25 (Provisional)
State wise	No. of female	No. of female	No. of female
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	268	353	205
Andhra Pradesh	1177734	1337910	1322539
Arunachal Pradesh	1432	2032	3297
Assam	29358	31739	37226
Bihar	72184	106206	55728
Chandigarh	38	52	52
Chhattisgarh	213347	246216	246060
Delhi	148	174	148
Goa	1455	1706	1440
Gujarat	318925	366601	372606
Haryana	166495	183930	199946
Himachal Pradesh	45363	59302	70477
Jammu And Kashmir	65334	70345	67902
Jharkhand	93108	93499	97561
Karnataka	859981	960402	1052362
Kerala	801917	1117833	1091722
Ladakh	3723	3679	3887
Lakshadweep	237	402	686
Madhya Pradesh	497628	566841	450072
Maharashtra	893988	978850	736878
Manipur	3007	3372	3779
Meghalaya	8069	9909	20226
Mizoram	5507	6494	13030
Nagaland	10983	14037	14816
Odisha	406822	458607	492999
Puducherry	3843	15429	8624
Punjab	236680	279980	234746
Rajasthan	800080	950955	992899
Sikkim	643	1149	1207
Tamil Nadu	781501	1154461	1239534
Telangana	801556	1096403	1308249
Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	175	161	121
Tripura	7806	6844	7418
Uttar Pradesh	543749	759622	406439
Uttarakhand	29325	35311	34424
West Bengal	252998	248169	253584
Grand Total	9135407	11168975	10842889

***SY-Scheme years.**

Annexure-III

Percentage of working female in agriculture sector from PLFS 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24.

Survey year	Percentage of female in agriculture sector
2019-20	59.9
2020-21	62.2
2021-22	62.9
2022-23	64.3
2023-24	64.4

Source: Periodical Labour Force Survey (PLFS), MoSPI.
