

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3846**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27/03/2026

**PROMOTION OF CROP DIVERSIFICATION IN UTTAR PRADESH**

3846. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) the initiatives undertaken to promote crop diversification and the cultivation of millets in the Bundelkhand and Terai regions of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether targeted financial incentives have successfully encouraged farmers to shift from water-intensive crops to climate-resilient alternatives;
- (c) the details of funds utilized for establishing millet processing units and primary processing centers in the State;
- (d) the progress in distributing high-yielding, drought-resistant seed varieties to UP farmers for the upcoming Kharif season; and
- (e) the steps taken to secure robust Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurement for diverse crops to ensure assured returns?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Crop diversification is being promoted through various Central Government schemes such as the Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses, National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseeds (NMEO–OS), and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) etc. Further, in 100 selected aspirational districts across the country, Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) scheme is being implemented through convergence and crop diversification is one of its prime objectives. The Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), under the Pradhan Mantri- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) is being implemented in the Original Green Revolution (OGR) States *viz*; Haryana, Punjab & western Uttar Pradesh since 2013-14 to divert the area of water guzzling paddy crop to alternative crops like millets, pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals etc. Further, from 2015–16 the Crop Diversification Programme was extended to major tobacco-growing States, including Uttar Pradesh, with the objective of encouraging tobacco growers to shift to alternative crops or cropping system. Crop diversification in Uttar Pradesh including parts of Terai region is promoted through the state government under the CDP. The state has been approved an annual action plan of Rs. 44.22 crores (central share + state share) under CDP for the year 2025-26.

To promote the cultivation of millets and crop diversification towards millets, the Government of India is also implementing the National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) across 28 States and 2 Union Territories (UTs), including Uttar Pradesh, with the objective of enhancing the production of various crops including Millets (Shree Anna) through area

expansion and productivity improvement. Under NFSNM, assistance is being provided for millet cultivation to the farmers, through the States/UTs, for demonstration on crop production & protection technologies, for distribution of certified seeds, for production of certified seeds, for Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management measures, including capacity building of farmers through cropping system-based trainings etc. High-yielding, climate-resilient, bio-fortified varieties or hybrids that are resistant to insects, pests and diseases, as well as short and medium duration (less than 10 years old) that outperform existing prominent varieties are promoted under NFSNM. Under NFSNM, the state of Uttar Pradesh has been approved an annual action plan of Rs. 54.99 Crore (central share + state share) for the year 2025-26 for interventions to increase the production and productivity of millets.

The various schemes promoting millets (Shree Anna) have successfully encouraged farmers to shift from water-intensive crops to climate-resilient alternatives. The area under millets, pulses and oilseeds has been increased from 10.93 lakh ha, 23.80 lakh ha and 11.97 lakh ha during 2020-21 to 12.51 lakh ha, 24.76 lakh ha and 25.76 lakh ha, respectively during 2025-26 (as per 2<sup>nd</sup> Advance Estimates) in Uttar Pradesh.

Further, Uttar Pradesh Millets Revival Programme (UPMRP) is an initiative taken by the state Government for revival of Shree Anna (Millets) in Uttar Pradesh including in Bundelkhand and Terai regions. The state is promoting crop diversification from water guzzling paddy crop to alternative crops like Urad, Moong, Maize, Bajra, Groundnut, Soybean, vegetable etc. to increase farmers' income and to safeguard water table.

(c): The Government has been taking various initiatives to promote millet processing and consumption across the country along with incentivizing food processing units, in millet-based products. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) from 2021-22 to 2026-27 and one component of the scheme focuses on Millet-Based Products, with an outlay of Rs. 800 crores. In Uttar Pradesh, one millet project has been approved under PLISFPI during 2022.

Further, under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, Millets and millet-based products have been identified as One District One Product (ODOP) in 21 districts of 11 States and 17 Incubation Centers have been approved in 10 States having Millet processing lines. As on 31.12.2025, 4,612 micro food processing enterprises have been approved with subsidy of Rs.91.20 Crores for millet processing across the country. In Uttar Pradesh, 27 micro food enterprises with subsidy of Rs. 1.32 Crores for millet processing have been approved under PMFME. In addition 4 incubation centers have been approved for Uttar Pradesh under the scheme.

Further, the Uttar Pradesh state Government has informed that under UPMRP scheme a fund of Rs.617.5 lakhs has been provided as grant to the State Agriculture Universities and their Krishi Vigyan Kendra as well as FPO/Entrepreneurs in the Bundelkhand and Terai regions for establishing Millet Processing Units, thereby encouraging the establishment of millet processing units and primary processing centers.

(d): Under NFSNM, high yielding varieties of all field crops are also distributed and in Uttar Pradesh, a total of 40227 qtls, including 1238 qtls of millet seeds have been distributed so far in the year 2025-26. Further, the state Government has informed that under Uttar Pradesh Millet Revival Programme (UPMRP), minikits of various high yielding drought-resistant Millets (Jowar, Bajra, Kodo, Sanwa and Ragi) seed varieties are procured from the Seed Corporation for distributing to Uttar Pradesh farmers. During last three years (2022-25), a total of 110 millets varieties have been released by Central Variety Release Committee (CVRC).

(e): The Government implements the Price Support Scheme (PSS) under Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanskaran Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) for procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra at Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme across the country. Pulses namely, Tur, Urad and masoor are being procured upto 100 percent under Price support scheme (PSS) of PM-AASHA scheme since 2023-24. Further, Department of Food and Public Distribution have informed that states have been permitted to procure millets (jowar, bajra, ragi and six minor millets) from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) under the central pool subject to the prior approval of the Central Government, based on the detailed procurement plan prepared by State Governments in consultation with Food Corporation of India (FCI) for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). Further, the Government has increased the distribution period/shelf life of millets from earlier 3 months to 6-10 months for enhancing higher level of procurement.

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