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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1444
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31/07/2026

MEASURES TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND REDUCE CULTIVATION COST IN MAHARASHTRA

1444. SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

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

(a) whether Government has taken effective steps to promote natural farming, organic farming, micro-irrigation and climate-resilient agricultural practices in Maharashtra to enhance sustainable agriculture and reduce cultivation costs;
(b) the details of farmers covered under these initiatives during the last three years, district-wise;
(c) the funds sanctioned, released and utilized under the respective Central schemes, year-wise; and
(d) the impact of these interventions on input costs, crop productivity, water-use efficiency, soil health and farmers' income, particularly in drought-prone districts of the State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): The Union Cabinet approved the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) on 25th November 2024 as a centrally sponsored scheme which is being implemented in the country. Further, two schemes are being implemented to promote organic farming since 2015-16 namely Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), which is implemented in all States and Union Territories (UTs) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern (MOVCDNER), which is implemented in the North Eastern States. Natural Farming is a chemical free farming, involving livestock integrated farming methods. Natural farming and Organic farming improve soil health, restores ecosystems and reduces input cost to the farmers leading to greater resilience in Agriculture. The Government is also implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) for micro irrigation in the Country including the State of Maharashtra from the year 2015-16. Micro irrigation also promotes Fertigation which results in efficient use of fertilizers. NMNF, PKVY and PDMC schemes are being implemented in the State of Maharashtra.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) Project to study the challenges posed by climate change on agriculture and conducts district level risk & vulnerability assessment due to climate change. Under the project, risk and vulnerability assessment to climate change has been carried out for 651 agricultural districts as per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) protocols including the State of Maharashtra. Out of the 310 districts identified as vulnerable to climate change, 201 have been categorized as 'High' climate-vulnerable and 109 as 'Very High' climate-vulnerable. Of the 201 'High' climate-vulnerable districts, 11 districts, namely Nandurbar, Akola, Washim, Wardha, Chandrapur, Hingoli, Parbhani, Jalna, Ahmednagar, Latur, and Osmanabad, fall in the State of Maharashtra. Of the 109 'Very High' climate-vulnerable districts, 2 districts, namely Beed and Washim, fall in the State of Maharashtra. For enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacity of farmers to climate variability, location-specific climate resilient technologies such as system of rice intensification, aerobic rice, direct seeding of rice, cultivation of climate resilient varieties tolerant to extreme weather conditions such as drought and heat, etc., have been demonstrated under the project through KVKs in 151 districts. Capacity building for establishing village level seed banks and community nurseries is undertaken under NICRA to enable availability of seed in the adopted villages. Drought and flood tolerant climate-resilient varieties of rice, wheat, soybean, mustard, chickpea, sorghum, gram, and foxtail millet were demonstrated in several NICRA villages. Besides, training programmes are conducted under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) on various issues of agricultural practices.

(b): The details of farmers covered under NMNF, PKVY and PDMC during the last three years, in the state of Maharashtra is given at **Annexure-I**. The district wise details is not maintained centrally.

(c): Year wise funds sanctioned, released and utilized under NMNF, PKVY and PDMC is given at **Annexure-II**.

(d): As reported by the State Government of Maharashtra, the use of on-farm natural inputs such as Jeevamrit, green manure and bio-pesticides has reduced dependence on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, lower the cost of cultivation particularly for small and marginal farmers. Practices such as biomass mulching, green manuring and application of organic inputs have contributed to improvement in soil health by enhancing soil organic carbon (SOC), increasing microbial activity and improving soil moisture retention, which helps crops withstand prolonged dry spells. Further, improved yield stability under adverse climatic conditions, coupled with reduced input costs and better price realization through certification under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and access to local markets for certified produce has contributed to enhancing farmers' income.

Annexure –I

Details of farmers covered under NMNF, PKVY and PDMC Scheme from financial year 2023-24 to 2025-26 in the State of Maharashtra.

Year	**Farmers Benefitted**		
	NMNF	**PKVY**	**PDMC**
2023-24	-	17081*	23279
2024-25	-		7951
2025-26	143707		56643
Total	**143707**	**17081**	**87873**

* Assistance is provided over three years under PKVY to the farmers.

Annexure - II

Year wise funds sanctioned (allocation), released and utilized under NMNF, PKVY and PDMC in the State of Maharashtra.

National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)			
Year	**Allocation**	**Release**	**Expenditure**
2024-25	0.00	0.00	0.00
2025-26	96.73	72.14	70.77
Total	**96.73**	**72.14**	**70.77**

(Rs. In crore)

Parmaparagat Krishi Vikash Yojana (PKVY)			
Year	**Allocation**	**Release**	**Expenditure**
2023-24	33.61	16.81	15.07
2024-25	25.13	25.13	14.83
2025-26	17.64	17.64	14.64
Total	**244.16**	**160.93**	**145.90**

Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)			
Year	**Allocation**	**Release**	**Expenditure**
2023-24	245.00	92.50	92.50
2024-25	407.00	483.29	436.435
2025-26	286.36	357.95	306.10
Total	**3872.62**	**3228.20**	**835.035**

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