

Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1454

TO BE ANSWERED ON 31/07/2026

BENEFITS TO INDIAN FARMERS FROM INDORE DECLARATION

1454. SHRI VINOD SHRIDHAR TAWDE:

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

- (a) the manner in which the initiatives and commitments under the Indore Declaration will benefit Indian farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers;
- (b) whether areas have been identified for gains from BRICS cooperation in digital agriculture, regenerative farming, seed systems and agricultural trade;
- (c) whether an action plan has been prepared to facilitate transfer of technologies, best practices and innovations to farmers; and
- (d) whether these initiatives are expected to improve farm incomes, reduce input costs and strengthen climate resilience in Indian agriculture?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Joint Declaration of the 16th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture was adopted on 13 June 2026 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh (the *Indore Declaration*). The Declaration is a multilateral cooperative framework among BRICS member countries and is based on voluntary, non-binding cooperation. It is not a domestic scheme or programme.

The Declaration recognises the important role of smallholder and family farmers, including women and youth, in ensuring food security and nutrition, and encourages cooperation among BRICS countries for improving access to knowledge, technology, innovation, finance and markets, consistent with national priorities and legislations.

The Declaration identifies the following areas for enhanced BRICS cooperation, with designated Indian institutions playing coordinating roles:-

- (i) **Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture** through a BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence, initially coordinated by ICAR–Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research (ICAR-IIFSR), Modipuram, as the Centre of Excellence on Natural Farming;
- (ii) **Digital Agriculture** through a BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture, initially coordinated by IIT Delhi, to facilitate voluntary exchange of knowledge and best practices while respecting data sovereignty and national digital governance frameworks;

(iii) **Seed Systems and Agricultural Inputs** through the BRICS AGRIN (Agro-Inputs, Genetic Resources and Information Network) Framework, coordinated by India, to facilitate voluntary exchange of information relating to seeds, planting materials, germplasm, fertilisers, bio-inputs and crop protection inputs, consistent with national legislations and applicable phytosanitary and biosafety regulations;

(iv) **Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems** through the Global Forum on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems, coordinated by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), New Delhi, as a platform for sharing experiences, traditional knowledge and approaches to equitable benefit-sharing in accordance with national laws; and

(v) **Agricultural Trade** through strengthened cooperation on food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, digital certification and a rules-based, open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system consistent with WTO provisions.

These cooperative initiatives are intended to facilitate exchange of knowledge, technologies, innovations and best practices among BRICS countries and complement India's ongoing efforts towards sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture.

(c): The BRICS AGRIN Framework provides the implementation architecture for cooperation. It envisages designation of National Focal Points by participating countries, periodic meetings aligned with the BRICS Agriculture Working Group calendar, and voluntary exchange of information on seeds, germplasm and agricultural inputs through mutually agreed bilateral or multilateral arrangements, subject to applicable national laws and phytosanitary and biosafety regulations.

Similarly, BRICS Agriculture Working Group has been mandated to take stock of activities of the BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture and the BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture.

(d): The cooperative mechanisms established under the Declaration are intended to facilitate voluntary exchange of knowledge, technologies, innovations and best practices among BRICS countries. Such cooperation complements existing national programmes and initiatives aimed at improving agricultural productivity, promoting sustainable and climate-resilient farming, strengthening seed systems, advancing digital agriculture and enhancing farmers' access to suitable technologies and global best practices, consistent with national priorities and applicable laws.
