

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2250
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/08/2026

WOMEN ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES

2250. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

- (a) the share of women engaged in agriculture and allied activities in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number and percentage of women engaged in agriculture who own agricultural land either individually or jointly, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government recognises women engaged in agriculture but not holding land titles, as farmers for the purpose of Government schemes, institutional credit, crop insurance, compensation and other agricultural benefits;
- (d) whether Government is considering any legislative or policy measures to provide formal recognition to women cultivators and tenant women farmers irrespective of land ownership, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), females constitute 59.81 percent of the total workforce engaged in the agricultural activities during 2025(January-December) across the country. The State/UT wise detail during the same period is given at Annexure I. As per Agriculture Census 2015-16, the percentage of female operated land holding is 13.96 percent of total number of operational holdings in the country. The State/UT wise detail is given at Annexure II.

(c) & (d): The Government is implementing a number of schemes to support farmers, including women farmers to access credit, crop insurance, compensation and other agricultural benefits. Also the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural

Development has recently addressed all States to introduce a column for Gender in the Record of Rights, in order to extend the benefits of credit, insurance etc. to women farmers. The benefits under the various schemes can be availed by women farmers are given below;

Under Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), concessional interest rates on short-term agricultural loans are provided to farmers through Kisan Credit Cards (KCC). Farmers (including women farmers) can avail Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans at a subsidized interest rate of 7% for their working capital requirement. Additionally, farmers who repay their loans promptly receive a 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI), effectively reducing the interest rate to 4% per annum. Number of female account holders who have benefited from Agricultural credit subsidy under the Kisan Credit Card linked Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for meeting working capital requirements are around 22% of 5.4 crores beneficiaries in financial year 2024-25.

Under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) provides for comprehensive risk insurance against crop damage from pre-sowing to post-harvest for crops and area notified by the concerned State Government. All willing farmers, including sharecroppers, tenant and women farmers are eligible to enrol under the scheme. Under PMFBY, 21% female farmers are enrolled during 2024-25.

Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme supports State Government's efforts and introduces latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sectors to farmers including women farmers through different extension activities viz; farmers training, demonstrations, exposure visits, kisan mela, mobilization of farmers groups and organizing Farm Schools. As per ATMA Guidelines, minimum 30% of resources meant for programs and activities are required to be allocated to women farmers and women extension functionaries.

The Government is implementing Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) scheme to promote adoption of new technologies of agriculture and allied sectors through technology assessment, demonstration and capacity development among the extension functionaries of state governments and farmers including women farmers. Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICAR-CIWA), Bhubaneswar provides latest technologies to increase status of livelihood of women farmers. It organises various extension activities like field days, exhibitions, exposure visits, demonstration, transfer of technologies through mass media etc. to acquaint the women farmers with latest technologies.

Under Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), subsidy is provided for

storage infrastructure, and marketing infrastructure other than storage, to the eligible beneficiaries including individuals, Group of farmers/growers, Self Help Group (SHG), 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 10,000 Farmers Producer Organization (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. Out of these, 914 FPOs are 100 percent women share holders FPOs.

Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme, in order to make farm machinery more accessible and affordable to farmers, financial assistance @ 40-50% of the cost of machinery depending on the category of farmers is provided for purchase of agricultural machines. For women farmers the financial assistance is @ 50% of the cost of machinery. The Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes (FMTTIs) imparts training to women farmers/ Technicians/ Engineers/ Unemployed youths/ Machinery manufacturers, etc. on latest technology of farm mechanization.

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) provides ₹6,000 per year to all eligible farmers through direct benefit transfer without gender discrimination, and has significantly benefited women farmers as ensuring transparent and direct financial support to strengthen their income and participation in agriculture. A total of 2,18,66,774 women beneficiaries received benefits under the 23rd instalment of PM-KISAN Scheme.

ANNEXURE I

ANNEXUE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2250 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/08/2026 REGARDING “WOMEN ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES”.

States/UTs (Rural + Urban) Percentage distribution of Female in Agriculture		
Sl.No.	States/UTs	Percentage distribution of female in Agriculture
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	21.98
2.	Andhra Pradesh	53.48
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	70.22
4.	Assam	67.34
5.	Bihar	74.58
6.	Chandigarh	0.48
7.	Chhattisgarh	71.25
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	33.85
9.	Delhi	0.73
10.	Goa	7.26
11.	Gujarat	58.02
12.	Haryana	45.57
13.	Himachal Pradesh	77.34
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	74.73
15.	Jharkhand	75.57
16.	Karnataka	51.55
17.	Kerala	32.41
18.	Ladakh	72.52
19.	Lakshadweep	5.40
20.	Madhya Pradesh	72.62
21.	Maharashtra	58.50
22.	Manipur	25.67
23.	Meghalaya	55.33
24.	Mizoram	50.07
25.	Nagaland	71.68
26.	Odisha	69.10
27.	Puducherry	14.03
28.	Punjab	29.90
29.	Rajasthan	78.12
30.	Sikkim	48.06
31.	Tamil Nadu	35.45
32.	Telangana	52.26
33.	Tripura	55.35
34.	Uttarakhand	59.08
35.	Uttar Pradesh	69.03
36.	West Bengal	49.73
All India		59.81
<i>Source: NSSO Annual Report on PLFS, 2025</i>		

ANNEXURE II

ANNEXUE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2250 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/08/2026 REGARDING “WOMEN ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES”.

State/UT-wise Percentage of female operational holdings as per Agriculture Census 2015-16		
Sl.No.	States/UTs	Percentage of female operational holdings
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	29.80
2	Andhra Pradesh	30.09
3	Arunachal Pradesh	12.07
4	Assam	1.67
5	Bihar	14.00
6	Chandigarh	10.83
7	Chhattisgarh	13.79
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	20.75
9	Daman & Diu	18.92
10	Delhi	13.65
11	Goa	25.69
12	Gujarat	16.49
13	Haryana	14.76
14	Himachal Pradesh	7.43
15	Jammu & Kashmir	7.60
16	Jharkhand	11.27
17	Karnataka	20.07
18	Kerala	22.98
19	Lakshadweep	41.03
20	Madhya Pradesh	11.88
21	Maharashtra	15.46
22	Manipur	6.80
23	Meghalaya	34.32
24	Mizoram	11.78
25	Nagaland	9.85
26	Odisha	4.06
27	Puducherry	22.80
28	Punjab	1.55
29	Rajasthan	10.12
30	Sikkim	6.29
31	Tamil Nadu	19.65
32	Telangana	23.00
33	Tripura	12.30
34	Uttar Pradesh	7.65
35	Uttarakhand	11.93
36	West Bengal	3.17
All India		13.96
<i>Source: Agriculture Census, 2015-16, MoA&FW</i>		
