

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2252
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/08/2026

CROP DIVERSIFICATION AND MONSOON CONTINGENCY STRATEGY

2252. SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

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

- (a) the State-wise and crop-wise targets and achievements under various crop diversification programmes since 2021;
- (b) the State-wise and crop-wise area brought under crop diversification in water-stressed and groundwater-depleted regions over the last five years;
- (c) whether a contingency strategy has been formulated for the forecast of below-normal rainfall and possible monsoon deficiency during the current Kharif season, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the advisories issued to States and farmers regarding crop planning, alternative crops, drought-resilient varieties, sowing schedules and water management for the current season?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b). The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is promoting Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under Pradhan Mantri - Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVVY), since 2013-14 in the original Green Revolution States of Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh to divert the area from water intensive paddy cultivation to less water intensive alternative crops such as shree anna, pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals etc. Under this programme, assistance is provided for alternative crop demonstrations, farm mechanization & value addition, site-specific interventions and contingency activities related to awareness generation & capacity building. Under the scheme during the period 2020-21 to 2025-26, the area covered under crop demonstrations in district specific clusters in the three CDP implementing states of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh are 9460 ha, 53723 ha and 61349 ha respectively.

The Government of India is also encouraging crop diversification through the state governments to grow crops such as coarse cereals, Shree Anna (millets) under the National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), Pulses under Mission for Atmanirbharata in Pulses, oilseeds under the National Mission on Edible Oil (NMEO)-Oilseeds and horticultural crops under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY) also addresses Crop Diversification through their interventions and convergence policies. From 2020-21 to 2025-26, the area under Shree Anna cum Coarse cereals in the country has increased from 241.18 lakh ha to 272.47 lakh ha, the area under Oilseeds increased from 288.34 lakh

ha to 308.86 lakh ha and the area under Horticultural crops increased from 274.76 lakh ha to 301.51 lakh ha while the area under Pulses has been sustained.

Further, DA&FW has approved a pilot project on “Crop Diversification” for five years (2023-24 to 2027-28) under NFSNM through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research (ICAR-IIFSR), Modipuram with a total outlay of Rs.1326.60 lakhs.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is continuously monitoring the evolving monsoon situation and the possible impact of El Niño conditions on agriculture in close coordination with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Central Water Commission (CWC), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC), various Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions including ICAR- Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), the Department of Fertilizers (DoF) and State Governments.

Further, the Government has formulated various contingency strategies for the forecast of below-normal rainfall & possible monsoon deficiency and also issued advisories for the ensuing kharif season as follows:

i. Meeting with State Agriculture Secretaries and Relief Commissioners held under the chairmanship of Secretary (DA&FW) on 27.04.2026 to review availability of inputs like seeds, fodder, drinking & irrigation water, fertilizers and general preparedness. Further, a meeting of the Crisis Management Group had been conducted on 17.06.2026 to assess and strengthen preparedness for the monsoon. In addition, the National Disaster Management Authority has also reviewed the preparedness of below-normal rainfall conditions emanating from the likely impact of the El Nino conditions on 19th June 2026. Review of the situation has been undertaken by the Agriculture Minister, Government of India with the State Agriculture Ministers for Kharif preparedness amid El Nino conditions on 23.06.2026.

ii. Weekly meeting of the Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) is being held with the representatives of India Meteorological Department (IMD), Central Water Commission (CWC), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC), Indian Council of Agriculture Research - Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (ICAR - CRIDA), Department of Fertilizers, Department of Food & Public Distribution and the State Governments to review rainfall situation, reservoir storage, groundwater levels, progress of crop sowing, input availability, market situation and pest/ disease incidence for timely intervention.

iii. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, continuously monitors the evolution of El Nino and other climate drivers and issues regular seasonal/monthly forecasts, extended-range forecasts, and weather advisories to the Central and State Governments and other stakeholders. IMD issues Impact-Based Forecasts (IBFs) and riskbased warnings daily, valid for the next 7 days through multiple communication channels for use by disaster management authorities, State Governments, district administrations, and other stakeholders to support preparedness and response measures.

iv. ICAR-CRIDA has conducted interface meetings with 15 States and has updated District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs) in 342 Districts in consultation with the states which are likely to receive below normal rainfall. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have also been issued by ICAR for Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for mitigation of El Nino-related risks.

- v. Adequate availability of seeds has been ensured, against the demand of 172.80 lakh quintals from the States, there was availability of 192.25 lakh quintals of Kharif crop seeds. States have maintained 1% seeds i.e. 1.74 Lakh quintals as National Seed Reserve.
- vi. Special emphasis has been laid on promoting crop diversification, promotion of short-duration and drought-tolerant crop varieties, balanced use of fertilizers, water conservation practices, micro-irrigation, mulching, inter-cropping and practices of other climate-resilient technologies.
- vii. A nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyaan was organised during 1-30 June, 2026 in which 80,67,300 farmers participated in 1,14,567 programmes which were organised to promote water conservation, introduce efficient irrigation and climate-resilient farming practices. Simultaneously, an intensive Kisan Credit Card (KCC) saturation drive and awareness campaign under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented in the vulnerable districts.
- viii. The Central Water Commission and State Governments have been advised to undertake advance planning for optimum utilization of reservoir water and promote efficient irrigation practices. Assistance to farmers is available through ongoing schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana: Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) with a focus on enhancing water-use efficiency at the farm level through installation of Micro- Irrigation systems.
- ix. Department of Rural Development is utilizing Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB G Ram G) funds for rejuvenating water structures – such as farm ponds, check dams, canal desilting, and bori bandhans – to trap every drop of early or residual rainfall.
- x. Further, as part of the climate resilient agricultural practices, the Department is also implementing various Schemes viz. the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO – OS) and other existing programmes across the country.
