

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2253
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/08/2026

DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE IN RAYALASEEMA REGION

2253. SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh is a chronically drought-prone and low rainfall region, resulting in recurring agricultural distress;
- (b) whether Government has formulated or implemented any special schemes or initiatives for the promotion and development of horticulture in the Rayalaseema region;
- (c) the details of financial assistance, infrastructure development, micro-irrigation facilities, cold storage, processing units and farmer support provided for horticulture development; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to launch any special package or mission for the comprehensive development of horticulture in the Rayalaseema region?

ANSWER

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

- (a): Yes. During the period 2020–2025, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had declared drought in 2023, 2024 and 2025. In the 2023 Southwest Monsoon (Kharif) season, deficit rainfall resulted in 103 mandals across seven districts being declared drought-affected. The majority of these were concentrated in the Rayalaseema region, with Anantapur accounting for 28 mandals, followed by Kurnool (24), Sri Sathya Sai (21), Annamayya (18), Nandyal (6), and Chittoor (4). In 2025, severe rainfall deficits led to drought declarations in 37 mandals across three districts: Annamayya, Sri Sathya Sai, and Prakasam.
- (b) to (d): Details of financial assistance, infrastructure development, micro-irrigation facilities, cold storage, processing units and farmer support provided for horticulture development; in the country including Andhra Pradesh is Annexed.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented during XII Plan w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa. All States and UTs including Andhra Pradesh are covered under MIDH scheme.

Major activities being undertaken in the programme are production and distribution of quality planting material, vegetable seed production, area expansion, rejuvenation of senile plantation, creation of community water resources, protected cultivation, IPM/INM, organic farming, pollination support through Beekeeping, development of post-harvest management & marketing infrastructure and human resource development.

Details of the major achievements made under MIDH since inception i.e. from 2014-15 to 2025-26 and details of the funds allocated and released in the State of Andhra Pradesh is as under:

A) Physical achievement under the major components of MIDH scheme:

- Area Expansion: An additional area of 1.42 Lakhs ha. of identified horticulture crops are covered.
- Nurseries: 77 nurseries have been established for production of quality planting materials.
- Rejuvenation: An area of 43647 ha. has been covered under rejuvenation of old and senile orchards.
- Protected Cultivation: An area of 74552 ha. (including mulching) has been covered under Protected Cultivation.
- Water Resources: 4717 water harvesting structures have been created.
- Post Harvest Management: Under the component of Post Harvest Management, 10953 units including pack houses, cold storage units, refrigerated vans, primary/ mobile processing units, ripening chambers, pre cooling units attach to cold storages and mobile pre cooling units) have been established.
- Beekeeping: 20578 bee colonies with hives have been distributed.
- Horticulture Mechanization: 33185 horticulture mechanization equipment have been distributed.
- Market Infrastructures: 847 market infrastructures have been set up.
- Training of Farmers: 239866 farmers trained under various horticulture activities.

B) Details of the funds allocated and released under MIDH from 2014-15 to 2026-27 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Release
2014-15	64.68
2015-16	55.75
2016-17	64.02
2017-18	76.70
2018-19	102.93
2019-20	79.38
2020-21	95.00
2021-22	50.00
2022-23	50.00
2023-24	24.00
2024-25	51.13
2025-26	100.25

2026-27	77.25
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Projects sanctioned by National Horticulture Board in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh

During the period from 2023-24 to 2025-26, a total subsidy of Rs.11.89 lakh were released for Open Field Cultivation covering a total area of 28.52 Acres.

Infrastructure Development under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme facilitates medium- to long-term debt financing for creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and viable farming assets. The Scheme provides 3% interest subvention and credit guarantee support on loans up to ₹2 crore for eligible borrowers, subject to a maximum lending rate of 9% per annum. Details of projects sanctioned and completed along with the amount of loans sanctioned and disbursed under the AIF Scheme as on 15.07.2026 since inception in Andhra Pradesh is as under:

State	No. of Sanctioned Projects	Sanction Amount (In Cr)	Number of Disbursed Projects	Disbursed Amount (In Cr)	No. Of Completed Projects
Andhra Pradesh	6992	3,699.51	4962	1,993.90	4292

Projects sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna - Detailed Project Report component

The Pradhan Mantri–Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVVY) DPR component is a project-based funding scheme providing states with up to 30% of total RKVY allocations for infrastructure creation, innovation, and gap-filling horticultural/agricultural projects not covered under other schemes. In the last three years from 2024-25 to 2026-27, 105 projects were sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh.

Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)

Under Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) is implemented by DA&FW for creation of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure including scientific Storage capacity. A total of 2129 projects have been sanctioned with a total subsidy of Rs.40,539.97 lakhs released for Andhra Pradesh since inception of the scheme.

Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the Country including Andhra Pradesh from the year 2015-16. The PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation, namely, Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation systems. Financial assistance is provided to farmers for installation of micro irrigation systems @ 55% and 45% of the unit cost to small & marginal farmers and other farmers respectively under the Scheme.

From 2015-16 to so far Central Assistance of Rs. 3498.54 crore has been provided to the State of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of PDMC. During this period, an area of 11.75 lakh ha has been covered under Micro Irrigation through PDMC in the State including Rayalaseema region.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) implements the Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure as one of the components of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) with the objective of reducing post-harvest losses of horticultural and non-horticultural produce and providing remunerative prices to farmers for their produce. Under the scheme, as on 30.06.2026, a total of 1735 projects (including Andhra Pradesh) have been approved. Total cost of approved projects amount to approximately Rs.33163.34 crores which will benefit 50.23 lakh farmers.

Financial assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) & National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)

State Governments are primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures on ground level in the wake of notified calamities and the States. For under taking relief measures, the State Governments are provided funds under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), in case of disaster of 'severe nature'. The details of funds allocated and released to Andhra Pradesh under SDRF and NDRF during 2021-22 to 2025-26 (15th Finance Commission) are as under:

(Rs. In crore)

Financial Year	Allocation under SDRF		Release of Central Share under SDRF	Release under NDRF
	Central Share	State Share		
2021-22	895.20	297.60	895.20	351.43
2022-23	940.00	312.80	940.00	--
2023-24	987.20	328.00	987.20	--
2024-25	1036.00	344.80	1036.00	56.895
2025-26	1088.00	361.60	1088.00	132.755*

* For modernization of fire services

Rs. 6,533 crores have been allocated under SDRF for the State of Andhra Pradesh for the period from 2026-27 to 2030-31 under 16th Finance Commission.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

The erstwhile Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) was a demand-driven wage employment Scheme, with an objective to provide not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment in every financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand, resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability.

Details of Horticulture plantation works taken up during the last year and current year (up to 30th June 2026) under MGNREGS in Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh

S No.	District	Number of works completed	
		2026-27	2025-26
1	Anantapur	19	2325
2	Annamayya	22	5316
3	Chittoor	15	7708
4	Kurnool	0	1052
5	Nandyal	1	825
6	Sri Sathya Sai	1	913
7	Tirupati	6	2754

8	Y.S.R	4	817
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Details of Micro Irrigation works during last year and current year (up to 30th June 2026) under MGNREGS in Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh

S No.	District	Number of works completed	
		2026-27	2025-26
1	Anantapur	7	1,509
2	Annamayya	37	1,425
3	Chittoor	88	2,134
4	Kurnool	63	3,949
5	Nandyal	58	3,733
6	Sri Sathya Sai	3	311
7	Tirupati	48	2,993
8	Y.S.R	35	1,697

Further, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had recommended additional 50 days of wage employment over and above 100 days per household under erstwhile MGNREGA in drought affected (notified) areas of the State of Andhra Pradesh during the years 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Scientific and Technical approach to reduce impact of Drought in the region

In Andhra Pradesh, the All India Coordinated Research Project for Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA) centres at Anantapuramu (domain area covering Anantapuramu, Kurnool, YSR Kadapa, Chittoor, and Prakasam districts) and Darsi (voluntary centre) are engaged in developing location-specific technologies to minimize the impacts of rainfall variability and drought conditions. NICRA-TDC introduced horticultural crops in Rayalaseema region to enhance climate resilience systems, diversified farming systems and improve farmer's income.

These centres have developed a range of technologies, including resilient crops and cropping systems; improved soil and water conservation practices; water harvesting and efficient water-use technologies; nutrient management strategies; and small farm mechanization for timely agricultural operations in rainfed regions. In addition, alternate land-use systems and integrated farming systems have been developed to enhance productivity and profitability under changing climatic scenarios.

A real-time contingency measures formulated to address the impacts of erratic rainfall and drought situations, including early-season, mid-season and terminal drought conditions. At Anantapur, considering the limited rainfall and shallow soil profile, the AICRPDA centre has focused on developing dryland horticulture systems involving hardy fruit tree species such as amla, custard apple, jamun, and simarouba.

Technology	Technology Details	Key Outcomes
Amla based agroforestry system for Scarce rainfall zone in Andhra Pradesh	Amla + senna agroforestry system	75% higher yield
