

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2261
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 07/08/2026

DECLINE IN FARMERS' INCOME DUE TO SHRINKING SOWING ACREAGE

2261. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) whether the Kharif sowing acreage has declined during the current year due to the slow progress of monsoon;
- (b) the Kharif crop sowing acreage, in hectares, during the last two years;
- (c) the Kharif crops whose sowing acreage has fluctuated during the last three years, along with the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken to maintain the area under crop sowing; and
- (e) the details of the decline in farmers' income due to the reduction in the area under crop sowing?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The sowing operations for Kharif 2026-27 are still underway, and the first advance estimates for all major Kharif crops in the 2026-27 agricultural year (July–June) have not yet been released. The details of fluctuations in the total area sown under kharif crops alongwith the reasons, for the last three years is given in **Annexure**.

(d): In view of the delayed and uneven onset of the Southwest Monsoon and the resultant shortfall in Kharif sowing, the Government has undertaken a series of proactive measures to sustain sowing operations and minimise any decline in the area under cultivation. The strategy is focused on maximising sowing within the available window, promoting alternate and short-duration crops, ensuring timely availability of seeds and credit, supporting crop diversification, and providing risk mitigation through crop insurance and continuous weather-crop monitoring. Further, the Government has undertaken the following measures:

- (i) District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs) have been updated for 15 States covering 342 Districts which are likely to receive below normal rainfall by the ICAR Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (ICAR-CRIDA) in consultation with the States for implementation. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have also been issued by ICAR for Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for mitigation of El Niño-related risks.
- (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, crop sowing, input availability, market situation and pest/ disease incidence for timely intervention. 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.

- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) As per the National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM), the State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures at the ground level in the wake of notified calamities. The State Governments undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities from funds available in the form of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in accordance with the approved guidelines. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per laid down procedure, in case of disaster of 'severe nature', which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT). The financial assistance provided under SDRF and NDRF is by way of relief and not for compensation of losses suffered/ claimed. The financial assistance provided under SDRF and NDRF is by way of relief and not for compensation of losses suffered/ claimed. The details of fund allocation under SDRF State-wise during 2026-27 to 2030-31 (under the XVIth Finance Commission) as provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs is given at **Annexure**.
- (vii) 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. Department of Rural Development is utilising Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika 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. 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 Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds Mission, Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses and other existing programmes across the country.

(e): The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) conducted a Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households during NSS 77th round (January, 2019 – December, 2019) with reference to the agricultural year July, 2018- June, 2019 in the rural areas of the country. According to these surveys, the estimated average monthly income per agricultural household increased from ₹6,426 in 2012-13 (NSS 70th round) to ₹10,218 in 2018-19 (NSS 77th round).

Annexure referred in reply to Part (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2261 due for reply on 07.08.2026

Fluctuations in Total Area of Major Agricultural Crops in Kharif Season

Crop	Area (Lakh Hectares)			Percentage Change (over previous year)		
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Rice	407.34	434.66	446.70	0.82	6.71	2.77
Maize	83.29	84.61	98.61	3.43	1.58	16.55
Shree Anna /Nutri Cereals	99.50	99.83	93.51	-1.93	0.33	-6.33
Tur	41.31	43.36	44.60	1.55	4.96	2.86
Urad	26.81	21.81	21.26	-13.46	-18.65	-2.52
Moong	31.74	34.14	37.45	-8.95	7.56	9.70
Other Pulses	16.40	16.75	15.66	13.73	2.13	-6.51
Groundnut	40.44	50.05	50.29	-5.14	23.76	0.48
Castorseed	10.41	9.65	10.89	2.16	-7.30	12.85
Sesamum	10.08	10.39	9.63	-3.36	3.08	-7.31
Nigerseed	0.83	1.01	0.83	-5.68	21.69	-17.82
Soybean	132.55	129.52	123.86	1.31	-2.29	-4.37
Sunflower	0.67	0.78	0.88	-69.27	16.42	12.82
Sugarcane	57.40	54.50	58.84	-2.46	-5.05	7.96
Cotton	126.88	114.84	115.25	-1.85	-9.49	0.36
Jute & Mesta	5.98	5.44	5.83	-3.39	-9.03	7.17
Total Area	1092.02	1111.64	1134.32	-0.62	1.80	2.04

Source: DA&FW

Data for the year 2025-26 is of 3rd Advance Estimates

Cotton Production in Bales, 1Bale=170 Kg

Reasons for Changes in Crop Area during the Last Three Years

- During 2023-24, rainfall irregularities, particularly deficient rainfall in some southern States, affected the area under Kharif crops. During 2024-25 and 2025-26, improved rainfall conditions contributed to an overall increase in the cropped area.
- Over the last three years, the area under Paddy, Maize, Moong, Castorseed, Sunflower and Sugarcane has generally shown an increasing trend, while the area under Shree Anna (Nutri Cereals), Urad, Sesamum and Soybean has shown a declining trend.
- The increase in Maize area is primarily attributed to improved market prospects and better price realization driven by the ethanol blending programme. The increasing trend in Paddy area is mainly due to stable remunerative prices (MSP), improved irrigation facilities and favourable rainfall conditions.
- The increase in Moong area is mainly due to the expansion of summer moong cultivation, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, supported by procurement, availability of short-duration varieties and increased mechanization.
- The marginal increase in Sugarcane area is mainly attributable to better rainfall during the last two years.
- The decline in the area under Urad and Soybean is mainly due to the shift of farmers towards Maize and other more remunerative crops.
