

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3342
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH DECEMBER, 2016

FARM EQUIPMENT

3342. SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI DHARAMBIR:
SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:
SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:
SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farm equipment for use in the different sizes of land holdings are available in the country and if so, the details and utilisation status thereof and the steps taken by the Government to promote collective farming in the country including Rajasthan;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up custom hiring centres to rent expensive farm equipment to the farmers and if so, the details thereof along with the involvement of private sector in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has launched 'Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav' scheme to encourage agriculture scientists to adopt villages and give suitable advice to the farmers about their farms and if so, the details thereof along with the villages covered thereunder in the country including Rajasthan;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to have better coordination between agricultural technologies and sustainable development and improvement in crop yield and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard; and
- (e) whether major concerns of pesticide usage in agri-ecosystem were raised in the recently held international biodiversity conference and if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

- (a): The improved farm equipment for use in different sizes of land holdings are available in the country which suit to different power sources and unit operations such as Land Development , Tillage, Sowing, Planting, Reaping, Digging, Inter Cultivation, Residue management, Forage, Harvesting, Threshing and Plant Protection equipments are available in the country. The utilization of these equipments during 2012-13 to 2014-15 is enclosed as an **Annexure I**.

Contd...2/-

Department Of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is not promoting collective farming in the country.

(b): The Custom Hiring Centers (CHC) are promoted through Sub Mission of Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY). The financial assistance for setting up of CHC is provided to rural entrepreneurs, progressive farmer and Self Help Groups (SHG) in above schemes @ 40% of the project cost limited to a project cost upto Rs.2.50 crore.

State wise establishment of CHC through above schemes during 2014-15 to 2016-17 is enclosed as an **Annexure II**.

(c): The Government has launched "Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav" Scheme in August 2015 to encourage agriculture scientists to adopt villages and give suitable advice to the farmers on technical and other related aspects in a time frame through personal visits or on telephone. Under this scheme, a group of four scientists have adopted 5 villages. Scientists also create awareness among farmers about climate change, other customized technologies, protective measures, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and other issues of local and national importance. In this process of social transformation, scientists involve local Panchayats, development agencies, NGOs and private organisations. In this initiative, 20,000 scientists of National Agricultural Research and Education System (NARES) are working.

The State wise villages covered in the scheme "Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav" during 2015-16 in the country including Rajasthan is enclosed as an **Annexure III**.

(d): Government has introduced various farm technologies to sustain development of agriculture and improvement in crop yield under various Missions/ Schemes, such as integrated farming system/ cropping system with appropriate resource conservation technologies; development of high yielding pest/ disease tolerant crop varieties/ hybrids; water use efficiency enhancement through micro irrigation; soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers; dissemination of agriculture related information to the farming community through various ICT enabled delivery channels including SMSs, internet kiosks, farmers portals etc; scientific storage of both perishable and non-perishable produce; precision farming; increasing the reach of farm mechanization by promoting "Custom Hiring Centres", creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments; promotion of latest technologies on crops specific cultivation; protected cultivation of horticultural products, organic farming etc.

(e): The 1st International Agrobiodiversity Congress conference was held in New Delhi from 6th to 9th November, 2016 and was attended by 900 participants from 60 countries. The concerns of pesticides usage in agri-ecosystem were raised and discussed in the conference is as per below:

- (i) The impact of the neonicotinoid insecticides on pollinators not restricted to honeybee and measures to overcome were suggested.
- (ii) Birds play an important role in pest management and the impact of pesticides on insect feeding birds and measures to be adopted.
- (iii) The role of insecticides on natural enemies of insect pests and others in the ecosystem.
- (iv) Soil health as we see is not soil nutrition but interplay of soil insects, arthropods and microbes. It was highlighted that pesticides can have serious detrimental impact on soil fauna impacting soil health because of pesticides.
- (v) It was highlighted that agrobiodiversity is better served through pheromones, natural enemies, biopesticides and host plant resistance and pesticides is not and should not be the automatic choice.

As regards to the outcome of the conference is concerned , based on the detailed deliberations, the delegates unanimously adopted preamble and the declarations as enclosed in **Annexure IV**.

Annexure I**Utilization (availability) of farm equipments during 2012-13 to 2014-15 (No. in lakhs)**

Year	Tractors	Power Tillers	Combine Harvesters	Ploughs	Cultivators	Harrows	Seed drills	Sprayers & Dusters	Threshes	Planters	Levellers	Puddler	Cane Crushers
2012-13	5.90	0.47	0.25	715.41	11.48	12.25	132.84	29.63	75.29	0.90	23.07	113.31	9.51
2013-14	6.97	0.56	0.30	722.97	11.70	12.60	135.40	30.10	77.75	0.92	23.43	116.40	9.61
2014-15	5.54	0.51	0.35	730.53	11.92	12.94	137.93	30.94	80.22	0.94	23.75	119.49	9.71

Source : Agricultural Machinery Manufacturer's Association

Annexure II

State wise Custom Hiring Centers Established Under Various Schemes Of DAC&FW During 2014-15 ,2015-16 & 2016-17

	2014-15			2015-16			2016-17			TOTAL SMAM	TOTAL RKVY	GRAND TOTAL
	SMAM	RKVY	TOTAL	SMAM	RKVY	TOTAL	SMAM	RKVY	TOTAL			
Andhra Pradesh	0	326	326	0	850	850	0	0	0	0	1176	1176
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	61	0	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	0	61
Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	22	0	22	3	0	3	0	0	0	25	0	25
Gujarat		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haryana	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Himachal Pradesh`	3	0	3	1	0	1	2	0	2	6	0	6
Jammu & Kashmir	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	6	6
Jharkhand	49		49	38	107	145	0	0	0	87	107	194
Karnataka		94	94	0		0	0	0	0	0	94	94
Kerala	0	0	0	34	0	34	0	0	0	34	0	34
Madhya Pradesh	0	189	189	63	132	195	0	130	130	63	451	514
Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	4	36	40	9	0	9	9	2	11	22	38	60
Nagaland	6	1	7	1	0	1	5	0	5	12	1	13
Orissa	10	0	10	0	0	0	250	0	250	260	0	260
Punjab	0	105	105	0	110	110	34	92	126	34	307	341
Rajasthan	0	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	0	14	0	14
Sikkim	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Tamil Nadu	22	0	22	142	48	190	67	63	130	231	111	342
Telengana	0	378	378	0	500	500	0	1198	1198	0	2076	2076
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	189	0	189	264	0	264	27	0	27	480	0	480
Uttarakhand	11	0	11	23	0	23	10	0	10	44	0	44
West Bengal	57	97	154	93	118	211	0	0	0	150	215	365
TOTAL	437	1229	1666	685	1868	2553	404	1485	1889	1526	4582	6108
SOURCE: STATE GOVERNMENT												

Annexure - III

Number of villages covered under Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav scheme in 2015-16

State	No. of Villages
Punjab	58
Haryana	1063
Delhi	6
Himachal Pradesh	61
Jammu & Kashmir	189
Uttar Pradesh	436
Uttarakhand	50
Andamann& Nicobar	56
Bihar	43
Jharkhand	24
West Bengal	234
Telanagana	186
Andhra Pradesh	48
Maharastra	139
Rajasthan	495
Gujarat	583
Karnataka	217
Tamil Nadu	114
Kerala	348
Goa	4
NE region	254
Total	4608

Source: ICAR

Based on the deliberations during the 1st International Agrobiodiversity Congress held in New Delhi from 6th to 9th November, 2016 , the delegates unanimously adopted the Preamble and following declaration at the concluding session on November 9, 2016.

Preamble

- (i) Agrobiodiversity includes crop varieties, livestock and fish breeds, and agriculturally useful insect and microbial species. Significant progress has been made towards the documentation, collection, conservation and use of Agrobiodiversity related genetic resources, yet much more needs to be done towards their sustainable use, greater exchange and knowledge and technology transfer.
- (ii) If conserved and used sustainably, Agrobiodiversity could make an important contribution towards resolving problems of hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and climate change, thus help in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Aichi Targets of Convention on Biological Diversity.
- (iii) Limitations in policies, investment, infrastructure, technical capacity as well as cross-sectoral coordination and partnerships have often prevented efficient use of agrobiodiversity. This is particularly alarming since it is projected that the world, where almost 795 million people go hungry today, will need 70% more food to feed 9.6 billion people by 2050 (FAO, 2015). Hence, high priority and policy support by world leaders and organizations is warranted for enhanced use of agrobiodiversity.
- (iv) The world is also facing rapid loss and extinction of biodiversity. It is estimated that species are being lost at 1000 to 10000 times the rate at which natural extinction took place at any time during the past 66 million years mainly due to explosive population growth and overexploitation of natural resources. Extinction of agrobiodiversity and associated traditional knowledge is an irreversible process and hence must receive priority attention. In fact, loss of gene is a major loss for our future generations.

Declaration

1. We call upon nations to accord top priority to the agrobiodiversity conservation and their sustainable use towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Aichi Targets of Convention on Biological Diversity addressing poverty alleviation, food, nutritional and health security, gender equity and global partnership.
2. We recognize the importance of traditional agrobiodiversity knowledge available with farm men and women, pastoralists, tribal and rural communities and its central role in its conservation and use for a food secure and climate resilient world. We, therefore, call upon countries to develop the necessary legal, institutional funding mechanism to catalyze their active participation.
3. We urge researchers and policy-makers to initiate, strengthen, and promote complementary strategies to conserve agrobiodiversity through use, including greater emphasis on using crop wild relatives. We call for them to continuum between ex situ, in situ, on-farm, community-based and other conservation methods with much greater and equal emphasis on each.
4. We propose researchers employ modern technologies including, but not limited to, genomic, biotechnology, space, computational, and nano-technologies for genetic resources characterization, evaluation and trait discovery. The aim must be to achieve efficiency, equality, economy and environmental security through diversified agricultural production systems and landscapes.
5. We reemphasize the necessity of global exchange of plant, animal, aquatic microbial and insect genetic resources to diversity agriculture as well as our food basket and to meet the ever-growing food and nutritional needs of each country. To ensure this nations need to be catalysed to adopt both multiple-lateral (as envisaged in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture) and bilateral

(as per the Nagoya Protocol) instruments to facilitate the exchange of genetic resources, while ensuring equitable access and benefit sharing opportunities.

6. Countries are also expected to harmonize their existing biosecurity systems, including phytosanitary and quarantine, and enhance their capacities to facilitate safe trans-boundary movement of germplasm.
7. We also expect that the governments and civil societies lay much greater emphasis on public awareness and capacity enhancement programs on agrobiodiversity conservation in order to accelerate its effective and efficient use.
8. We recommend the development and implementation of an agrobiodiversity index to help monitor on-going genetic resources conservation and management efforts, with particular emphasis on agrobiodiversity hot spots.
9. It is also urged that public and private sectors and civil societies henceforth actively invest in and incentivize the utilization of agrobiodiversity to mitigate malnutrition, increase the resilience and productivity of farms and farming households and enhance ecosystem service. Such efforts should lead to equitable benefits and opportunities with particular emphasis on women and youth.
10. We urge countries to reprioritize their research and extension with increased investments to support the conservation and use of agrobiodiversity. Further we strongly recommend to create an International Agrobiodiversity Fund as a mechanism to assist countries and communities in scientific in situ and ex situ conservation and enhanced use of Agrobiodiversity.
11. We urge the United Nations to consider declaring a 'Year of Agrobiodiversity' in order to draw worldwide attention and catalyze urgent actions for effective management of genetic resources by the global community.
12. Finally, We recommend that the International Agrobiodiversity Congress be held each four years with Bioversity International playing the facilitator's role, to maintain the momentum gained in 2016 and continue emphasizing the need to implement the Delhi Declaration on Agrobiodiversity Management and monitor the progress so made by the different stakeholders and countries.

Source: ICAR
