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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2884
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH March, 2018

CLIMATE RESILIENT CROP VARIETIES

2884. SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL:

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

(a) whether the continuous drought and unavailability of climate resilient crop varieties and drip irrigation have adversely affected the agriculture sector in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government for the betterment of agriculture sector in the State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): Maharashtra is reported to have been witnessing water scarcity due to predominance of dry land areas in the State. For conservative and efficient use of water, much emphasis is given for adoption of Micro Irrigation technologies like Drip and Sprinkler irrigation systems in the State. Higher priority is given for allocation of funds under 'Per Drop More Crop' component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY) for promoting Micro Irrigation. 2.70 lakh hectares of land have been covered under Micro Irrigation in Maharashtra since 2015-16.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched a major project '*National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture*' (NICRA) in February 2011. Presently, this project is referred as '*National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture*' (NICRA). The project is aimed to enhance resilience of Indian agriculture through strategic research, capacity building and technology demonstrations. The objective of NICRA is to minimize the crop yield losses due to extreme weather events such as droughts etc. and to improve the livelihoods of the farmers by demonstrating the technologies across the country.

Technology Demonstration Component (TDC) under NICRA is being implemented across 151 climatically vulnerable districts across the country, including Maharashtra. The climate vulnerabilities addressed are drought, flood, cyclone, heat / cold wave, frost and high temperature stress. Under TDC, context- and location-specific climate resilient practices and technologies, including **Climate Resilient Crop Varieties** are demonstrated in farmer

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participatory mode to address current climatic variability faced in one cluster of villages in each district. Climate resilient crop varieties suitable for cultivation under drought stress in Maharashtra have been developed for wheat, maize, finger millet, sugarcane, sorghum, blackgram, chickpea, horsegram, pigeonpea, groundnut, safflower, sunflower, cotton, fodder crops, pearl millet-napier (fodder) and niger.

In addition, the government initiated preparation of district agriculture contingency plans. The District Agricultural Contingency Plans (DACP) are technical documents aimed to be ready reckoner for line departments and farming community on prevailing farming systems and technological interventions to manage various weather aberrations, such as, droughts, floods, cyclones, hailstorms, heat and cold waves, addressing different sectors of agriculture, including horticulture, livestock, poultry, fisheries. The contingency plans are useful for preparedness and real time implementation towards sustainability of agriculture production system in the events of weather aberrations and extreme climatic events. **623** contingency plans have been prepared so far and hosted on ICAR / DAC websites (http://farmer.gov.in/, http://agricoop.nic.in/acp.html, http://crida.in/). The plans are circulated to all state agriculture departments.

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