

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1125
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2022

AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

1125. DR. AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that agriculture, being water intensive does not do well in heat wave-prone areas; and
- (b) if so, the details of the steps that have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote agricultural practices which are not water-intensive and to support afforestation that has a salutary effect on warming?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Government has taken several initiatives to promote sustainable agricultural practices which are not water-intensive and support afforestation that has a salutary effect on warming. Government is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) which is one of the National Missions under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). Under 'Per Drop More Crop'(PDMC) component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), steps are taken for enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through precision/micro irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation). Besides promoting precision irrigation and better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources, PDMC also supports micro level water storage or water conservation/management activities. Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated

with climatic variability. Under this system, crops/cropping system is integrated with activities like horticulture, livestock, fishery, agro-forestry, apiculture etc. to enable farmers not only in maximizing farm returns for sustaining livelihood, but also to mitigate the impacts of drought, flood or other extreme weather events with the income opportunity.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has launched a flagship network project NICRA to promote agricultural practices that are less water-intensive. Climate resilient technologies viz., crop diversification from paddy to other alternate crops like pulses, oilseeds, agroforestry systems, zero till drill sowing of wheat to escape terminal heat stress, alternate methods of rice cultivation etc. have been developed. Crop Diversification Programs are being implemented in the states of Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh to divert the area under water-intensive paddy to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, maize, and cotton including promotion of agroforestry plantation.
