

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
ADMITTED/UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1073
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26-07-2023**

Biotech-Kisan Programme

1073. SHRI N. REDDEPPA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Biotech-Kisan Programme that has been launched to empower farmers through technological solutions;
- (b) the details of the support provided and the intended benefits of the same; and
- (c) the details of other such measures being taken to provide for direct linkage between science laboratories and farms in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
(डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह)

a) Yes sir, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is implementing a farmers-centric Mission Programme 'Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network' (Biotech-KISAN). The programme connects Indian farmers with scientists and institutions engaged in research in agriculture field. The aim of the programme is to work with small and marginal farmers for better agriculture productivity through scientific intervention and evolving best farming

practices. The core activities of the programme are understanding the problems of the local farmer, scouting available technologies/solutions, demonstration and scale-up programmes, creation of strong Scientists-Farmers Interaction Platform; training programmes for the farmer and immersion programmes for scientists, communication through radio/TV and social media, thematic fellowship for selected farmers and special solution-driven thematic fellowships to women farmers. The programme also promotes the development of bio-based agri-enterprises in rural areas. The Department has funded fifty one (51) Biotech-Kisan hubs out of which forty four (44) are operational. These hubs are located in 15 agro-climatic zones of the country and are conducting activities in 171 districts.

b) Yes sir, through the programme farmers are provided with seed/plants/livestock/poultry of improved varieties and improved management practices. These technological interventions have benefited farmers by increasing their income as well as helping them in setting of bio based enterprises. The programme has benefitted over five lakhs farmers (directly or indirectly) by increasing their agriculture output and income. Programme is also successful in developing 200 entrepreneurs in rural areas. The Department has till date provided support of Rs. 9554.146 lakhs to the programme.

c) Yes sir, the Ministries/Departments of Government of India are implementing various programmes for direct linkage between science laboratories and farmers in country. Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is supporting 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and implementing programmes like Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav (MGMG), Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) programme and the farmer FIRST (Farm, Innovations, Resources, Science and Technology). The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories are organizing Farmer-centric events such as Pushp Krishi Mela, Floriculture Entrepreneur Meet, Scientist-Industry Meet to create a linkage between floriculture farmers and scientific institute. In addition to Biotech-Kisan, Department is also supporting farmers through its societal programme.