

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1862
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST AUGUST, 2023

IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND FARMER WELFARE

1862. COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE:

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

(a) the details of existing initiatives and budget allocations aimed at improving agricultural productivity and farmer welfare across the nation;

(b) the details of the specific plans and programs which are in place for promoting organic farming and the adoption of innovative technologies in agriculture;

(c) the strategies deployed to ensure fair market prices and enhance income of farmers, as well as measures taken to reduce farmer indebtedness and enhance agricultural credit availability;

(d) the effectiveness and impact of these initiatives on improving farmer welfare and quality of life along with specific data or indicators demonstrating this impact; and

(e) the details of Government plans to promote sustainable agricultural practices and climate-resilient farming in order to future-proof the sector against environmental challenge and manner in which the Government is ensuring the implementation and success of these plans?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Government of India is deeply committed to the welfare of farmers and has taken numerous measures to support agriculture across the country. A comprehensive range of central sector and centrally sponsored schemes has been implemented to

address various aspects of agriculture and benefit farmers. Apart from the schemes, the Government has also taken several initiatives to enhance income and improve quality of life of farmers which include unprecedented enhancement in budget allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare from Rs. 30224.38 crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 125035.79 crore in 2023-24. List of major schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and farmers Welfare is given in the Annexure.

(b) to (d) To promote organic and natural farming practices, initiatives like the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) and National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) have been introduced.

Ensuring that farmers receive fair and remunerative prices for their crops is a top priority of the Government. This is achieved by fixing Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for mandated Kharif, Rabi, and other commercial crops, ensuring a minimum return of 50 per cent over the all India weighted average cost of production. Additionally, the establishment of the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) facilitates transparent and competitive price discovery by enabling farmers to sell their produce online and connect with buyers from all over the country.

Addressing the crucial aspect of credit availability, the Government has set an ambitious target of Rs.18.5 lakh crore in 2022-23 for institutional credit to agriculture. Concessional institutional credit is provided through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme at a low-interest rate of 4% per annum, and efforts are being made to saturate the KCC coverage to reach more farmers.

To harness the power of technology, the Government is building a digital agriculture ecosystem known as "agristack." Furthermore, recognizing the potential benefits of drone technologies in agriculture, the Government has released Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to leverage drones effectively for various agricultural activities.

These initiatives collectively reflect the Government's dedication to empowering farmers, promoting sustainable practices, and ensuring the growth and prosperity of the agricultural sector in India. However, a comprehensive study covering impact of these

initiatives on improving farmer welfare and quality of life along with specific data or indicators is not available.

(e) Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) which is one of the National Missions under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). NMSA aims at transforming Indian agriculture into an ecologically sustainable climate resilient production system, while ensuring food security, employment and livelihood opportunities in rural areas. Also, National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) Project, being implemented by the ICAR, is dedicated to enhance the resilience of Indian agriculture through development and application of improved production and risk management technologies. ICAR has developed several climate resilient technologies that helps in reducing emissions from agriculture sector. Out of 2279 varieties developed by the ICAR since 2014, 1888 are climate resilient varieties.

Annexure

List of major schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

SI No	Name of the Scheme
1.	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
2.	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)
3.	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
4.	Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS)
5.	Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
6.	Formation and Promotion of Farmers Producers Organizations
7.	Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)
8.	Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)
9.	Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM)
10.	Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP)
11.	Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
12.	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
13.	Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM)
14.	Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
15.	Soil Health Card (SHC)
16.	Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
17.	Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
18.	National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oil Palm
19.	National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oilseeds
20.	Market Intervention Scheme and Price support Scheme (MIS-PSS)
21.	National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)
22.	Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region
