

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1868
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1st AUGUST, 2023

AWARENESS REGARDING MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

1868. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BHABHOR

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to spread awareness among the farmers to integrate the modern agricultural technology in farming particularly in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study highlighting the benefits of digitization of agriculture to increase productivity and reduce the losses; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes. The Government has taken number of steps to spread awareness amongst the farmers to integrate the modern agricultural technologies in farming across the country including Gujarat. Details of such Schemes are as under:

(i) Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme is under implementation across the country aimed at creating awareness amongst farmers about new technologies. Presently, Scheme is being implemented in 704 districts of 28 states & 5 UTs [Including all the 33 districts of Gujarat]. The scheme promotes decentralized farmer-friendly extension system in the country. Under the scheme Grants-in-Aid is released to the State Governments with an objective to support State Government's efforts to make available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in

different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sector including spreading awareness amongst the farmers to integrate the modern agricultural technology in farming to farmers through different extension activities viz; Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc.

(ii) ICAR: The Government has set up 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in different States of the Country including 30 KVKs in Gujarat to spread awareness amongst the farmers to integrate the modern agricultural technology in farming. The activities of KVKs include on-farm testing to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems; frontline demonstration to establish the production potential of improved agricultural technologies on the farmers' fields; capacity development of farmers for knowledge and skill up-gradation; and production of quality seeds, planting materials and other technology inputs for availability to the farmers. In order to develop awareness of improved agricultural technology among the farmers, a large number of extension activities are taken up by the KVKs.

(iii) RFS: RFS Division is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) and Rainfed Area Development (RAD) Schemes. The PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation viz Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems and RAD focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability.

Government is implementing various programmes to spread the awareness of modern agricultural technology in association with State Agricultural Universities (SAU) and ICAR Institutes in the Country like;

- Quality seed production.
- Establishment of frontline demonstration plots for dissemination of latest Technologies.
- Organizes transfer of technology programmes like Seminar and Workshops..
- Conducts farmers training programme to update the farmers on latest improved technologies and to Conduct Skill training programme for rural youths and farmers on latest & modern technology in agriculture and allied areas.

In Gujarat, these programmes are implemented through Anand Agricultural University, Junagadh Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar, Dantiwada Agricultural University

(SDAU), Navasari Agricultural University, Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, ICAR -Central Arid zone Research Institute, ICAR Complex Bhuj.

(iv) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH): Under MIDH scheme, Government has conducted Transfer of Technology (TOT) programmes on different subjects in various states including Gujarat.

(v) Directorate of Cashew nuts and Cocoa Development (DCCD): Following technology transfer programmes are implemented by the DCCD: -

- Organized District level seminar, fair in various states for spreading awareness on latest productive technologies to the farmers.
- Conducted training programme to the farmers in various aspects of farming consisting of nursery management, management of diseases, canopy management, improved production technologies, post-harvest management and processing, drying and storage, preparation of primary and value-added products.

(c) & (d): An evaluation and impact assessment of ATMA Scheme was carried out in 2018 and 2020 by a 3rd Party evaluation. The observation of the agencies was that ATMA has a strong institutional presence on the ground and its activities enabled farmers to learn about new technologies and have the opportunity to interact with scientists and farmers from other states, agricultural universities to enable them to increase their knowledge and broaden their horizons. NITI Aayog has also carried out evaluation of ATMA and recommended for continuation of the Scheme with more demonstration in the farmers field.
