

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1927
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01ST AUGUST, 2023

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN AGRICULTURE

1927. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL:

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

- (a) the measures being taken by the Government to inspire women entrepreneurs from all over the country particularly from the States of Bihar and Gujarat to move in the direction of sustainable agriculture practices; and
- (b) the manner in which digital media is being used to create awareness to upgrade and promote enterprises of women and women entrepreneurs associated with agriculture sector?

ANSWER

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

(a) Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) through its flagship scheme Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is working with women Self Help Group (SHG) members across the country. The mission has taken up several measures to encourage women to take up agricultural enterprises for enhancing their income across the country including the states of Bihar and Gujarat. The large size producer enterprises and producer groups are being promoted to provide encouragement to women entrepreneurs for value addition of agriculture commodities. Non-Pesticide Management shops are promoted under the mission to provide timely supply of quality botanical extracts for promotion of sustainable agro-ecological practices.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development"

programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2018-19 with an objective to promote innovation and agripreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem in the country including the States of Bihar and Gujarat. The Ministry has appointed five Knowledge Partners (KPs) as Centres of Excellence and twenty four RKVY-RAFTAAR Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) from across the country for implementation of this programme. Potential women startups/entrepreneurs can avail benefit from the programme.

(b): Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has initiated measures for encouraging the technology led startup-innovation ecosystem in the country including Agri-tech and encourage entrepreneur in the startup ecosystem. The initiatives are for the promotion of startups and entrepreneurs irrespective of gender and applicable for women entrepreneurs too. The initiatives include Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) Scheme, MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), Domain specific Centres of Excellence, Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups (GENESIS) and Support for International Patent Protection in E&IT (SIP-EIT) Scheme.

DAY NRLM is also utilizing the digital media for mobilizing and training women. Audio and videos are being used to impart training to the women entrepreneurs and community resource persons in agriculture sector; and the webinars of various sub-sectors and activities are organized to increase reach of the programme under the Mission. The Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (CIWA), Bhubaneswar under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi has developed a Gender Knowledge System in Agriculture (GKS) Portal (<https://www.icar-ciwa.org.in/gks/>) based on gender disaggregated data, technologies and methodologies which help the stakeholders at national and international level.
