

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3157**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2023

**SUSTAINABLE FARMING**

3157. SHRI PALLAB LOCHAN DAS:

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

- (a) whether any initiative have been undertaken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to restore and promote sustainable farming in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): To restore and promote sustainable farming in the country, Government is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) which is one of the National Missions under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The Mission aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate. NMSA was approved for three major components i.e. Rainfed Area Development (RAD); On Farm Water Management (OFWM); and Soil Health Management (SHM). Subsequently, new programmes such as namely Soil Health Card (SHC), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Per Drop More Crop, National Bamboo Mission (NBM) etc. were also included.

Under NMSA, Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme promotes water use efficiency at the farm level through Micro Irrigation technologies i.e. drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. Till date an area of 78.48 lakh hectare has been covered under Micro irrigation through the PDMC scheme from the year 2015-16. Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme is being implemented as a component under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) from 2014-15 in the country. RAD focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability. Till date an area of 7.11 lakh hectares has been covered under RAD programme from the year 2014-15. Soil Health Card (SHC) / Soil Health Management (SHM) scheme is operational through the State Governments under National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility. Now, this scheme has been merged as Soil Health Component of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from the year 2022-23. The main objective of the scheme is to assist states in promoting

Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. Soil Health Card provides information to farmers on soil nutrient status of their soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. So far 22.71 crore grid based soil health cards have been distributed to farmers under the scheme. For promoting organic farming, under Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North East Region (MOVCDNER), 379 Farmer Producer Companies have been formed comprising of 1.89 lakh farmers and covering an area of 1.73 lakh ha. The restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM) was launched during 2018-19 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). During the year 2022-23 the NBM has been merged with Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme. MIDH is being implemented in which an area of 11.26 lakh ha have been covered. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) was initiated to promote organic farming in the country and so far 11.80 lakh ha area has been covered.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has launched a flagship network project namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) to promote climate resilient agricultural practices. The achievements of ICAR in the field of research on climate resilient agriculture include the following;

- i. In total, 1888 climate resilient crop varieties including 891 of cereals, 319 of oilseeds, 338 of pulses, 103 of forage crops, 182 of fibre crops, 45 of sugar crops, and 10 of other crops have been developed.
- ii. Participatory technology development of climate resilient practices has been undertaken involving farmers in risk assessment, demonstration and adaptation techniques in 151 clusters covering 454 villages, with a footprint of 2.13 lakh households, on 2.36 lakh hectares of land.
- iii. 68 climate resilient technologies have been demonstrated in 454 villages on 15857 farmers' fields during 2014-23.
- iv. 88 biocontrol agents, 31 biopesticides and 41 Biofertilizers have been documented and circulated. Also District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs) for 650 Districts have been developed.
- v. To protect the farmers from abnormal weather conditions ICAR in collaboration with India Meteorological Department (IMD) is issuing Agromet advisories twice a week (Tuesday and Friday) to around 6 crore farmers of the country through Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva program.

\*\*\*\*\*