

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 820
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25th July, 2023

MAKING AGRICULTURE SECTOR MORE PROFITABLE

820. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL:
SHRIMATI GEETA KORA:

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

(a) the measures being taken by the Government to encourage the students and youth associated with agriculture to make the agriculture more profitable thereby making the villages more prosperous in the country particularly in States of Bihar, Gujarat and Jharkhand;

(b) whether the Government is aware that there are many challenges in agriculture sector in current scenario;

(c) whether the use of technology has become mandatory to solve these challenges;
and

(d) if so, the details of the efforts being made in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Government has made following provisions to make the agriculture more profitable with involvement of students in the country including in the States of Bihar, Gujarat and Jharkhand.

- i. "Student READY" Programme: This is an integral part of the undergraduate degree programme in Agriculture across all Agricultural Universities (AU) since 2016-17. It is a well-structured one year programme which includes several components designed to provide desired skills to agricultural graduates for establishment of their own enterprises in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.
- ii. Rural Awareness Works Experience (RAWES) Programme: The undergraduate students support the livelihood improvement of small and marginal farmers in

terms of providing information about facilities extended by the Government, scientific and technical knowhow, selection of crops and marketing of their produce.

Department of Agricultural Research and Education through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) implements following schemes/programmes for vocational training and capacity development of youth to become entrepreneurs and adopt agriculture related professions to make it more profitable:

- i. Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA): There are 100 ARYA centers in the country including 6 centers in Bihar, 6 in Gujarat and 4 in Jharkhand.
- ii. Technology Assessment and Demonstration for its Application and Capacity Development through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs): The scheme is implemented in the country through 731 KVKs including 44 KVKs in Bihar, 30 in Gujarat and 24 in Jharkhand.

(b) to (d): Major challenges in Agriculture are fragmentation of cultivable land; degradation of natural resources particularly soil and water; ground water depletion; climatic aberrations; marketing of farm produce; etc. which require technological interventions. ICAR Institutes and AUs are working on developing technologies to combat these problems namely, farm machinery for small and marginal holdings; reclamation of problematic soil as well as soil fertility and nutrient management; resource conservation technologies; short duration varieties and methods of cultivation and irrigation to tackle climatic aberrations and ground water depletion; etc. E-platforms for marketing of produce using Information and Communication Technologies have been created for better remuneration to farmers. ICAR has developed 2018 climate resilient varieties and 114 bio-fortified varieties. These efforts are supported through different Government schemes to get optimum results. These include Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Soil Health Card, National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana, National Food Security Mission, Kisan Credit Card, Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Agricultural Technology Management Agency, Rainfed Area Development Programme, Scheme for promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations, National Bee Keeping Honey Mission, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, etc.

These efforts resulted into record production of foodgrains (330.5 million tons) and horticulture (347.2 million tons) during the year 2022-23. The sector grew at 4.6 % in the last 6 years. During 2021-22, the country exported products of agriculture sector to the tune of USD 50 billion.
