

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 257
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05th DECEMBER, 2023

ROLE OF WOMEN IN FARMING

257. SHRIMATI GODDETI MADHAVI:

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage the participation of women in decision making bodies related to natural farming, such as farmers' organizations and cooperatives;
- (b) the steps being taken to address the gender gap in agricultural extension services;
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure that women farmers have access to information and training on natural farming practices; and
- (d) the steps being taken to promote the role of women in the value chain for natural farming produce, including processing, packaging, and marketing?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (d): The Government of India is promoting natural farming since 2019-20 under Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP), a sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). Keeping in view of the strength of Natural Farming and the success achieved in some states, BPKP is being up-scaled in Mission Mode as separate scheme as "National Mission on Natural Farming" (NMNF). The implementation of NMNF including pre-production, production and post production activities are being planned through Community Based Organizations i.e. through women Self Help Group(SHGs), and their federations – Krishi Sakhis, Pashu Sakhis etc. These agencies may also be the ideal choices for setting up and/or operation of Bio-input Resource centers and also act as extended branches of various central institutions for mission implementation.

(b): To address the gender gap in agricultural extension services, under "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" popularly known as Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), a centrally sponsored scheme has made adequate provisions for women in farming. As per ATMA guidelines, women's food security groups are promoted. To ensure household food and nutritional security, Farm Women's Food Security Groups (FSGs) @ at least 2 per block are to be formed each year. These FSGs are supported for training, publication and access to inputs @ Rs.10000 per group. These FSGs also serve as "Model Food Security Hubs" through establishing kitchen

garden, backyard poultry, goatery, animal husbandry & dairying, mushroom cultivation, etc. Further, as per ATMA guidelines, 30% of the beneficiaries should be women farmers/farm women. Also the guideline under 4.1.4 (i) Minimum 30% of resources meant for programmes and activities are required to be allocated to women farmers and women extension functionaries. As per guidelines, in the ATMA Governing body, out of the non-official members so nominated, one-third would be women farmers. Further, the Block Farmer Advisory Committee (BFAC) and State Farmers Advisory Committee (SFAC) will have at least one third members as women among the progressive farmers. The District Farmers Advisory Committee (DFAC) should also give adequate representation to women. The Gender Coordinator under ATMA will perform the following functions to safeguard the interest of women farmers.

- ✓ Ensure flow of benefits under all schemes to women farmers.
- ✓ Collection of gender dis-aggregated data, and conducting studies and action research in critical thrust areas
- ✓ Promote Farm women's Food Security Groups and prepare training module so as to ensure household food security.
- ✓ Document the best practices/ Success Stories/ Participatory Material Production related to women in Agriculture
- ✓ Block-wise documentation, prioritization and addressal of farm women's needs and requirements in agriculture and all allied sectors
- ✓ Will report to State Coordinator in r/o gender related information

Women are also considered to serve as farmer friend in the villages to support innovative activities under ATMA. Under the Central Sector Scheme of Agri. Clinics and Agri. Business Centres (AC&ABC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, women beneficiaries are receiving 44% as subsidy while others will get 36%.

(c): National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), the Nodal organization and knowledge repository for Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) has conducted 997 One Day Awareness Programs for Gram Pradhans on Natural Farming covering 56,952 Gram Pradhans across the country. Out of which, 17626 are women participants given at **Annexure-I**. A web page on Natural Farming and Knowledge Repository has been created and information related to natural farming collected from various Research and Academic organizations have been uploaded in website for the benefit of various stake holders including women farmers. Study material on Natural Farming prepared in 22 regional languages for Gram Pradhans has been shared during the Gram Pradhans awareness program for the benefit of farmers including women farmers.

State-wise details of trained Gram Pradhans on Natural Farming by MANAGE

Sl. No.	State Name	Total No of Programs	Participants - Male	Participants - Female	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	94	1625	1600	3225
2	Assam	66	2529	410	2939
3	Bihar	157	3820	3384	7204
4	Gujarat	239	7178	3244	10422
5	Haryana	21	1599	151	1750
6	Himachal Pradesh	62	1334	1429	2763
7	Jammu and Kashmir	11	238	60	298
8	Jharkhand	95	9057	1819	10876
9	Karnataka	25	830	677	1507
10	Kerala	24	309	346	655
11	Maharashtra	42	1329	438	1767
12	Meghalaya	55	1601	740	2341
13	Nagaland	19	1161	364	1525
14	Punjab	25	1199	186	1385
15	Sikkim	8	252	183	435
16	Tamil Nadu	40	4641	2465	7106
17	Telangana	1	40	19	59
18	Uttarakhand	13	584	111	695
	Grand Total	997	39326	17626	56952
