

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 507

TO BE ANSWERED ON 06th FEBRUARY, 2024

SUPPORT TO AGRI-TECH START UPS

507. SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is supporting and fostering the Agri-Tech Start ups in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there are specific policies or funding mechanisms to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in the agricultural technology sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

- (a) & (b) The Government of India is committed to promote Agri-startups by providing financial and technical support to agri-startups in agriculture and allied sectors. Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2018-19 with an objective to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial and technical support for nurturing startups ecosystem in the country. So far, 5 Knowledge Partners (KPs) and 24 RKVY Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) have been appointed for training & incubation of agri-startups and implementation of this programme. The list of these 5 KPs and 24 R-ABIs is at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d) Under the programme, the financial support upto Rs. 5.00 lakh is provided at the idea/pre seed stage and upto Rs. 25 lakh at the seed stage to entrepreneurs/ startups in the field of agriculture & allied sector to launch their products, services, business platforms, etc into the market and facilitate them to scale up their products and operations. Each KP and R-ABI can select a maximum 20 start-ups in each category of pre seed and seed stage in a particular year for financial assistance under Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship programme. The fund is released in installments to the selected startups based on the recommendation given by the Committee constituted for this purpose.

Start-ups are trained and incubated by these Knowledge Partners (KPs) and RKVY Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) appointed under the programme. Technical support and mentorship is provided on financial, technical, IP issues etc. Besides, Government of India organize various national level programmes including agri-startup conclave, agri fair and exhibitions, webinars, workshops to provide a platform for the promotion of agri startups by linking them with various stakeholders.

Under this programme, funds are released to KPs and R-ABIs situated in different States. The financial assistance of Rs. 111.57 crores have been released in installments to a total of 1554 agri startups through various KPs and R-ABIs from 2019-20 to 2023-24.

List of Knowledge Partners (KPs) and RKVY- Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs)

Knowledge Partners (KPs):

- 1) National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.
- 2) National Institute of Agricultural Marketing(NIAM) Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- 3) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Pusa, New Delhi.
- 4) University of Agriculture Science , Dharwad, Karnataka.
- 5) Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat, Assam.

RKVY-RAFTAAR Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs):

- 1) Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Hisar, Haryana
- 2) CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh
- 3) IIT-BHU, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- 5) ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh
- 6) Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab
- 7) Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- 8) Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu & Kashmir
- 9) IIM, Kashipur, Uttarakhand
- 10) Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala
- 11) ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad, Telangana
- 12) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- 13) Agri innovation and entrepreneurship cell, ANGRAU, Andhra Pradesh
- 14) National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, Odisha
- 15) S K N Agriculture University, Jobner, Rajasthan
- 16) Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, West Bengal
- 17) Bihar Agricultural University, Bhagalpur, Bihar
- 18) Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat
- 19) ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 20) Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, Maharashtra
- 21) National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI), Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 22) College of Fisheries, Lembucherra, Tripura
- 23) Department of Veterinary Medicine College of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Aizawl, Mizoram
- 24) College of Horticulture & Forestry, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh
