

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 343  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020

**INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE FARMING**

343. MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government will consider providing incentives for using sustainable farming and agricultural machinery to farmers at low rent;
- (b) whether drip irrigation methods will be encouraged for sustainable farming, especially in Karur Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken to improve the income of farmers and reduce farming costs;
- (d) the status of implementation of the Comprehensive Policy Recommendations given in the Report of the Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income (Volume XIV, September 2018);
- (e) the measures being taken by the Government to resolve the agrarian distress in the country; and
- (f) whether any study has been conducted or will be undertaken to assess the increase in real income of farming households with the help of sustainable farming and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): DAC&FW is implementing schemes for incentivising sustainable farming and use of agricultural machinery to farmers.

**Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** launched in 2015 is the first comprehensive scheme for assisting organic farming in a cluster approach and PGS certification. The farmer within a group can avail benefit to a maximum of 2 ha with an assistance upto Rs.50, 000 per hectare, out of which 62% i.e., Rs. 31,000 is given as incentives for organic conversion, organic inputs, on farm inputs, production infrastructure, etc.,

**Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)** for development of certified organic production in a value chain mode in the States of North East India to link growers with consumers and to support the development of entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification and creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative, with third party certification.

**Soil Health Card (SHC):** Soil Health Card scheme was launched in 2015-16 in the country to give fertiliser use prescription based on testing of 12 soil parameters. The 2 biennial cycles have resulted in judicious application of fertilisers by the farmers.

**Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine** promotes Integrated Pest Management and educate the farmers about judicious use of chemical pesticides and recommend use as per the directions prescribed on the label and leaflets. It seeks to promote cultural, mechanical, biological methods of pest control and control and recommends use of chemical pesticides as a measure of last resort.

**Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)** is under implementation since 2014-15 and provides a single window platform for converging all activities for inclusive growth of agricultural mechanization with a special focus on Small & Marginal farmers and the following objectives:

- I. Increasing the reach of small and marginal farmers and to regions where availability of farm power is low to farm mechanization;
  - II. Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centres ' to offset the adverse economics of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership ;
  - III. Creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments ;
  - IV. Creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities;
  - V. Ensuring performance testing and certification of designated testing centres located all over the country.
- (b): DAC&FW is implementing Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Per Drop More Crop from 2015-16 in the country, including Tamil Nadu for promoting use of drip and sprinkler irrigation.

**The details of fund released and achievement and progress in Karur district of Tamil Nadu under PMKSY-Per Drop More Crop is at Annexure –I.**

(c): Various schemes of the DAC&FW are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, reducing cost of inputs, remunerative returns and income support to farmers. Details are at **Annexure-II**.

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(d): The Government constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee in April, 2016 to examine issues relating to “Doubling of Farmers Income” and recommend strategies to achieve the same. The Committee submitted its Report to the Government in September, 2018. The Committee has identified seven sources of income growth viz., improvement in crop productivity; improvement in livestock productivity; resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; increase in the cropping intensity; diversification towards high value crops; improvement in real prices received by farmers; and shift from farm to non-farm occupations. Subsequently an Empowered Body was set up on 23.01.2019 to monitor and review the progress against the recommendations. Due to the efforts made as part of Govt. schemes /programmes, which also aligns with the strategy of doubling farmers’ income, there has been an appreciable improvement in efficiency bringing about a positive Impact in the agriculture sector.

(e): **Same as in Para (c).**

(f): Government decided to conduct the next “Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households” during National Sample Survey (NSS) 77<sup>th</sup> round (January 2019-December 2019) with reference to the agricultural year July 2018 -June 2019 to provide a comprehensive assessment of the situation of agricultural households in the country, including their income, expenditure, indebtedness etc.

ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research through AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) and All India Network Programme on Organic Farming is undertaking research on integrated farming systems and organic farming in 26 States / Union Territories with the involvement of marginal and small farmers. Under on-station component of AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems, developed 45 tailor made prototype Integrated Farming System Models suitable to 23 States / Union Territories. These models provide scope to improve the income of farmers and reduce the farming costs through recycling of wastes.

**LOK SABHA USQ NO. 343 REPLY ON 04.02.202**

**Status of fund released and achievement made under PMKSY-PDMC across the country**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Released (Rs. in crore)</b>	<b>Achievement (Coverage of Micro- Irrigation) (Ha)</b>
2015-16	1556.73	572980
2016-17	1991.24	839961
2017-18	2819.49	1048934
2018-19	2918.38	1158519
2019-20 (as on 20/1/20)	1460.08	567658

**Detailed status of achievement made under PMKSY-PDMC in Karur district Tamil Nadu**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Released to Tamil Nadu (Rs. in crore)</b>	<b>Achievement (Coverage Micro-Irrigation) (Ha) in Karur district of Tamil Nadu</b>
2015-16	129.78	522
2016-17	143.5	637
2017-18	369.55	1659
2018-19	355	2880
2019-20	204	2616

**LOK SABHA USQ NO. 343 REPLY ON 04.02.2020**

- i. Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be rationalized.
- ii. “Per drop more crop” initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.
- iii. “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)” for promoting organic farming.
- iv. Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic transparent and competitive online trading platform.
- v. With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers.
- vi. Under “Har Medh Par Ped”, agroforestry is promoted for additional income. A restructured National Bamboo Mission has been launched in the year 2018 to promote bamboo plantation on non forest government as well as private land and emphasis on value addition, product development and markets.
- vii. Giving a major boost for the farmer’s income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- viii. Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)’. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is a step taken by Govt. of India to protect the farmers from making distress sale.
- ix. Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.

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- x. The Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) was launched in the year 2006-07 with a view to provide concessional short term crop loans including loan availed through Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers.
- xi. Kisan Credit Card Scheme (KCC) was introduced in 1998 to provide timely credit to farmers to meet short term/long term cultivation requirement, post harvest expenses, consumption requirement etc. KCC is implemented by Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Rural Regional Banks (RRBs). This Department is actively promoting the issue of KCC to all eligible farmers so that can come under the ambit of institutional Credit.
- xii. With a view to provide income support to all farmers' families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).
- xiii. Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme for providing old age pension to these farmers.

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