

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 975**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 08<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022

**MODERNIZATION OF AGRO-TECHNOLOGIES**

975. SHRI CHANDESHWAR PRASAD:  
SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:  
SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:  
SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any Scheme to disseminate information with regard to new technologies developed in agricultural sector to the farmers and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any Scheme to encourage farmers for organic farming;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating on modernization of new technology for improvement in agricultural sector and to double the income of farmers during the last three years especially during Covid-19 period, particularly in Bihar;
- (e) if so, the details of targets fixed/achieved in this regard so far alongwith the time by which such technology is likely to be developed; and
- (f) whether the Government has any Plan/Scheme to support the farming Community and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) :The Government has various plans/schemes/activities to disseminate information with regard to new technologies developed in agricultural sector to the farmers such as:
- i. Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) is being implemented w.e.f April,2014.The scheme aims at 'reaching the unreached' by bringing to the small and marginal farmers in the core and giving the benefits of farm mechanization, by Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centers' , creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments, distribution of various agricultural equipments, creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities, and ensuring performance- testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country.

- ii. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms’ popularly known as ATMA Scheme is under implementation since 2005 for promoting decentralized and farmer-friendly extension system in the country. Presently, 691 districts of 28 states & 5 UTs are covered under the scheme. Under the scheme Grants-in-Aid is released to the State Governments with an objective to support State Government’s efforts to make available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied areas to farmers through different extension activities viz; Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc.
- iii. Development of Kisan Suvidha mobile application to facilitate dissemination of information to farmers on the critical parameters viz., Weather; Market Prices; Plant Protection; input Dealers (Seed, Pesticide, Fertilizer) Farm Machinery; Soil Health Card; Cold Storages & Godowns, Veterinary Centres and Diagnostic Labs. With market information, farmers are better informed about markets to sell produce, prevailing market prices and quantity demanded in the market. Thus, they can make informed decisions to sell produce at the right price and right time.
- iv. The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has also compiled more than 100 mobile apps developed by ICAR, State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras and uploaded on its website. These mobile apps developed in the areas of crops, horticulture, veterinary, dairy, poultry, fisheries, natural resources management and integrated subjects, offer valuable information to the farmers, including package of practices, market prices of various commodities, weather related information, advisory services, etc.
- v. Development of m-Kisan Portal ([www.mkisan.gov.in](http://www.mkisan.gov.in)) for sending advisories on various crop related matter to the registered farmers through SMSs.
- vi. Launching of e-National Agriculture Market initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform.
- vii. Implementation of Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana which mainly focuses on water use efficiently at farm level through precision/micro irrigation technologies viz., Drip and Sprinkler irrigation. Micro irrigation technology not only help in water saving but also in reducing fertilizer usage, labour expenses, and other inputs costs besides sustaining soil health.
- viii. Implementation of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme of Agricultural Marketing, in order to improve/create scientific storage capacity for storing farm produce, processed farm produce and to reduce post-harvest storage loss.

- ix. Introduction of Soil Health Card Scheme to assist State Governments in providing Soil Health Cards to all farmers across the country once in a cycle of 2 years Soil Health Card provides information to the farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving crop productivity and soil fertility.
- x. Providing subsidies under National Food Security Mission (Oil Seeds and Oil Palm) to farmers on seed components, transfer of technologies, production inputs and water carrying devices. Financial assistance is also being provided under this scheme for block demonstration, frontline demonstration, farmers training to educate farmers to adopt modern techniques of farming to yield good crop economically.
- xi. Use of space technology for various programmes/areas such as Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land-based Observations project, Coordinated programme on Horticulture Assessment and Management using geo-informatics project, National Agricultural Drought Assessment and Monitoring System, Rice-fallow Area Mapping and Intensification, geo tagging of infrastructure and assets created under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, and Crop Insurance.
- xii. Using machine learning process alongwith different computer algorithm for crop classification and area estimation.
- xiii. The Institutes and the centres of All India Coordinated Research Projects are disseminating the new technologies to farmers through demonstration and awareness programme. During last three years, about 700 awareness programme were organized benefiting 40000 farmers.
- xiv. There were 33 Entrepreneur Development Programmes (benefiting 290 agripreneurs) on different aspects of post-harvest technology and value addition. In addition, the institute participated in 28 exhibition/melas across the country to showcase the institute technologies through which around 13,450 farmers were benefited..
- xv. The Government has also set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Agricultural Technology Management Agencies at district level for dissemination of technologies among farm community. In addition, farmers are provided information through Focused Publicity Campaigns, Kisan Call Centres, Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres of entrepreneurs, Agri Fairs and exhibitions, Kisan SMS Portal, etc.

(b) & (c): Government is encouraging organic farming under the Schemes viz Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) since 2015-16. Both the schemes provide end to end support to organic farmers from organic production to certification and marketing including post harvest management support like processing, packaging, storage etc.

PKVY is implemented in all the States across the country to promote organic farming in cluster mode, in which, farmers are provided financial assistance of Rs 50000/ha for 3 years in which, RS 31000/ ha / 3 years is provided directly to farmers through DBT for organic inputs such as seeds, bio fertilisers, bio-pesticides, organic manure, compost/vermi-compost, botanical extracts etc. MOVCDNER is implemented in all the North Eastern States for promotion of certified organic production, in which, organic farmers are supported to develop their value chain from organic production to processing and marketing etc. through FPO formation. Under the scheme a sum of Rs. 46,575/ha for 3years are provided for creation of FPO, support to farmers for organic inputs, quality seeds/ planting material and training, hand holding and certification. Besides, financial assistance are also provided as subsidy to FPOs and Private entrepreneurs.

Government is also promoting Natural farming through Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) as a sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2020-21 by supporting traditional indigenous practices. The scheme mainly emphasizes on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and plant-based preparations. Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification and residue analysis.

(d) & (e): The Centre at Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur carries out coordinated Research Project in the country on Post Harvest Engineering and Technology. It also provides training to farmers in the area of processing and value-addition of agricultural produce. During last three years, the center has conducted 42 outreach programmes on different aspects of post-harvest technology and value addition.

(f): The details of Plan/Scheme to support the farming Community are available on the Department's website - <https://agricoop.nic.in>.

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