

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2364
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH AUGUST, 2024

PRODUCTION OF CHIKKABALLAPUR BLUE GRAPES

2364. DR. K SUDHAKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has data regarding the production of Chikkaballapur blue grapes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has observed that farmers of Chikkaballapur blue grapes suffered heavy loss during the recent years due to various factors and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has data regarding the total acreage under cultivation of Chikkaballapur blue grapes during the last five years and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a mismatch between areas under cultivation and the production due to massive infestation by pests and other natural factors, if so, the details regarding the same;
- (e) the steps and measures taken for promotion of this unique grape variety; and
- (f) whether there has been a heavy decline in the prices of these unique grape varieties in the recent years that have heavily affected our farmers and if so, the details of remedial steps taken to ensure the cost of production is met?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): As per the information provided by the Department of Horticulture, Karnataka, Chikkaballapura blue grapes (Bangalore blue) are produced in Bengaluru Rural and

Chikkaballapura districts of Karnataka. The area and production of Chikkaballapura blue grapes during the five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 are given under:

Area (Ha.) and Production (MT) of Chikkaballapura blue grapes during 2018-19 to 2022-23						
Year	Chikkaballapura		Bengaluru(Rural)		Total	
	Area (Ha.)	Prod (MT)	Area (Ha.)	Prod(MT)	Area(Ha.)	Prod(MT)
2018-19	642	13864	1434	26434	2076	40298
2019-20	830	19162	1342	24594	2172	43756
2020-21	504	11618	1057	19934	1561	31552
2021-22	463	10707	1622	43053	2085	53760
2022-23	568	13113	1712	43086	2280	56199

Source: D/o Horticulture, Govt. of Karnataka

The excessive rains received in the Chikkaballapura blue grapes producing regions has resulted in significant reduction of area and loss in production during 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Further, the quality and shelf life of the Chikkaballapura blue grapes during this period got deteriorated due to the excessive water content caused by continuous rains. The increased relative humidity in the atmosphere during the same period had caused more incidence of downey mildew and powdery mildew diseases to the crops. These factors had adversely affected the demand for Chikkaballapura blue grapes resulting in loss of income for the farmers.

(e): Various steps and measures taken for the promotion of Chikkaballapura blue grapes under various schemes/programmes are given under:

- i. Chikkaballapura Blue grapes (Bangalore Blue) was notified as GI crop (Geographical indication) in the year of 2013.
- ii. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): A sum of Rs. 52,259.00/ha (Rs. 45,693.00 labour cost + Rs. 6,566.00 material cost) is provided as individual benefit for the establishment of new orchards of grapes.
- iii. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Per Drop More Crop PMKSY-PDMC: Subsidy is provided for drip irrigation @ 75% for general category and 90% for SC/ST category farmers.
- iv. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY): Assistance is given for use of water soluble fertilizers @ 40% for general category with maximum assistance of Rs. 24,000/ha and 50% for SC/ST category farmers with maximum assistance of Rs. 30,000/ha.
- v. Through Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)/ Integrated Pest Management IPM, farmers are provided with integrated pest and disease management inputs with maximum assistance of Rs. 2,000/ha.

vi. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM): Farmers are assisted to purchase boom sprayers and blowers, which are required to control the pests and diseases of Blue grapes with the subsidy of 40% (maximum of Rs. 76,000) for general category farmers and 50% (maximum of Rs. 95,000) subsidy to SC/ST category farmers.

i. To encourage its area expansion, subsidy is given in the following schemes:

a. Comprehensive horticulture development (CHD)

b. National Horticulture Mission(NHM)

(f): During the Covid-19 period, the farmers of this region incurred some financial losses due to non-availability of labour for harvesting and issues with marketing the crop, for which assistance was provided by the Government as relief under Comprehensive Horticulture Development (CHD) programme (special package at Rs.10000/ha.). Some of the measures taken by the Government to ensure that the growers of Chikkaballapura blue grapes do not suffer financial losses are given under:

i. Chikkaballapura blue grape producers were advised to enrol for Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) insurance to safeguard against potential losses due to the frequent risk of hailstorms and climate change. Under this, farmers can avail insurance benefit by paying 5% premium amount of Rs. 14,000.00/ha with sum assured coverage up to Rs. 2,80,000.00/ha. Farmers are also advised to avoid the rainy season crops.

ii. Helping the farmers for reducing the cost of production and post-harvest loses and improving the quality of produce by providing assistance for drip irrigation, plant protection chemicals, sprayers, farm equipment, water soluble fertilizers and packaging materials, etc. and by promoting the use of boomers and blowers to limit excessive chemical application.
