

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1162**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**POTENTIAL OF AGROFORESTRY SECTOR**

**1162. SMT. D K ARUNA:**  
**SHRI EATALA RAJENDER:**

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

- (a) whether the country's vast potential in the agro-forestry sector is a unique opportunity to integrate with carbon finance projects through Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation (ARR) initiative and there is a possibility to expand the area under agro-forestry from the current 28.4 million hectares to 53 million hectares by 2050 as agro-forestry accounts for 8.65 per cent of the country's total land area and contributes 19.3 per cent carbon stocks and thus, agro-forestry plays a significant role in environmental sustainability and economic development; and
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the steps being taken till date results yielded during the last nine years?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Agroforestry is known to have the potential to mitigate the effects of climate change through microclimate moderation, conservation of natural resources, enhance carbon sequestration/reduce emission of Green House Gases and creation of additional sources of livelihood opportunities. The Government of India formulated the National Agroforestry Policy in 2014 to encourage tree plantation in agriculture landscape. The policy recommends for setting up of a Mission to address development of the agroforestry sector in an organized manner. The Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) was implemented from 2016-17 till 2021-22 in 23 States/UTs with an aim to

encourage tree plantation on farm land with the motto of “Har Medh Par Ped”, along with crops/cropping system to help the farmers to get additional income and make their farming systems more climate resilient and adaptive. During 2016-17 to 2021-22, a total area of 1.21 lakh hectare has been covered under plantation with a total number of 532.30 lakh trees planted under the scheme.

The program continues as Agro-forestry components of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2023-24. The restructured Agroforestry Component under RKVY supports setting up of Agroforestry nurseries with an aim to provide Quality Planting Material (QPM)/quality seedlings to farmers. During the year 2023-24, a total no. of 156 New Agroforestry Nurseries have been established and 470 Existing Nurseries have been supported.

Agroforestry models developed by ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute (CAFRI) and Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) for different climatic zones are promoted under the scheme for encouraging inter-cropping with agricultural crops. Apart from this, Agroforestry plantation activity as well as seedlings distribution to farmers are being carried out under different schemes of the Government including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (Watershed Development Component), schemes of State Forest Department etc. As per ICAR-CAFRI report, the total area under Agroforestry in the country is about 28.427 million hectare as on October 2022.

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