

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2328
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th DECEMBER, 2024

PER DROP MORE CROP SCHEME

2328. SHRI KESINENI SIVANATH:

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

- (a) whether any target was set under the Micro Irrigation namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System under the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any data regarding the study conducted by Centre for Management in Agriculture, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad on Micro Irrigation coverage for improving water use efficiency;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the major recommendations and findings of the study and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the details regarding the proposed target to cover under the PDMC in the State of Andhra Pradesh and progress achieved under the same till date; and
- (f) the details regarding the training imparted to the farmer by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for promotion of Micro Irrigation for various crops?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्यमंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): The Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented as a component of Prime Minister-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (PM-RKVY). The Scheme promotes water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation, namely, Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. The scheme is implemented by the States/UTs by preparing their Annual Action Plan (AAP) which includes the area planned by the States/UTs to be covered under Micro Irrigation.

(c)&(d): The Centre for Management in Agriculture, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad conducted two studies on micro irrigation namely " The performance and impact of Micro Irrigation in improving water use efficiency in India's Agriculture: Study of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana(PMKSJ)- Per Drop More Crop(PDMC)" in 2021 and "Assessing Skill Gap in Micro Irrigation Across India" in 2023. Major findings/recommendations of the studies include the following;

(i) PDMC scheme promoting micro irrigation shows overall good performance and impact on improving water use efficiency, water conservation, enhancing farmers' income and increasing employment. Beneficiaries find the current mode of implementation through State Government agencies and private service providers satisfactory.

(ii) Various factors affect adoption of Micro irrigation such as high initial investment for the farmers, fragmented land holdings, availability of spare parts, technical issues in operation of MI Systems, non-availability of sufficient number of technicians to address the issue and high operation and maintenance costs etc.

(iii) The Scheme implementation is more streamlined in the States having Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for implementation. Institutional framework such as SPV and dedicated website for implementation may improve the performance.

(iv) Farmers' institutions such as sugar cooperatives can be involved to facilitate implementation of the scheme to assist the farmers.

(v) Focus should be given to hilly terrains/ States for adoption of Micro Irrigation which is also suited for horticulture crops such as vegetables and fruits. Such region can benefit immensely from micro irrigation.

(vi) Priority may be given for high water using crops such as sugarcane and banana. Much greater water saving is obtained from micro irrigation in such crops.

(vii) In view of profitability of Micro irrigation, the technology should be promoted not just as a water-saving technology but as a substantial yield, profit and income boosting technology.

(e): PDMC Scheme is implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the Annual Action Plan prepared by the State. The total areas covered under micro irrigation under PDMC for the State of Andhra Pradesh from the inception of the scheme (2015-16) till 2023-24 is 9.30 lakh ha. During the current year (2024-25), the State of Andhra Pradesh has indicated 1.24 lakh ha to be covered under Micro Irrigation in the State Annual Action Plan.

(f): The Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) organize training programmes for farmers on use of micro irrigation systems for field/horticultural crops. Besides, KVKs also organize training programmes for farmers on installation and maintenance of micro irrigation systems. During 2023-24, 816 such training programmes were organized by KVKs for farmers.
