

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2511
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2024

NUTRITION SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE

2511. DR. THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOLKAPPIYAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any scheme or policy framed to implement Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any program in support with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to promote Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has implemented a programme on “Nutri-Smart Village” to reach out 75 villages across India through the network of All India Coordinated Research Project on Women in Agriculture. The objectives of the programme are promoting nutritional awareness, education and behavioural change in rural areas involving farm women and school children, harnessing traditional knowledge through the local recipe to overcome malnutrition and implementing nutrition-sensitive agriculture through homestead agriculture and Nutri-garden. Concerted efforts have led to the development of 171 biofortified varieties including 152 field crop and 19 horticultural crop varieties. These biofortified varieties assume great significance to achieve nutritional security of the country. These cultivars have been improved for essential nutrients viz., iron, zinc, calcium, protein, lysine, tryptophan, pro-vitamin-A, anthocyanin, vitamin-C, oleic acid and linoleic acid. The concentration of several anti-nutritional factors viz., erucic acid, glucosinolates and trypsin inhibitor has been significantly reduced in some of the cultivars. Off-flavour of soybean grains has also been reduced. These biofortified cultivars with balanced concentration of nutrients are also high yielding, thus ideal for meeting country’s ‘food and nutrition security’.

Biofortified varieties are also promoted under National Food Security Mission (NFSM), which is being implemented for increasing the production of Pulses, Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals (Maize & Barley) and Nutri Cereals (Shree Anna). The Government of India has celebrated the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM) to promote the millets (Shree Anna) which have high nutritive value.

ICAR has also implemented Nutri-Sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovations (NARI) Programme through Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) for creating awareness on health and nutrition literacy. KVKs conducted on-farm trials, technology demonstrations on nutri rich biofortified varieties, trainings and various extension activities under NARI programme. KVKs organized different training programmes and extension activities under different areas like promotion of nutrition garden, nutri-thali, value-addition, bio-fortified crops, etc.

Under the Scheme “Support of State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms” state governments efforts are supported to make available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sector including Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture among farmers through farmers training, demonstrations, exposure visits, kisan mela, mobilization of Farmer Interest Groups, Women Food and Nutritional groups and setting-up of Farm School in the field of awardees farmers.

(c) & (d): National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad had worked with Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in 2019-20 to develop training modules for two level of officers in agriculture & allied sectors i.e. Mid-senior officers and Field level officers. The two sets of modules were developed and pilot tested. Thereafter, as part of the deliverables of the project, MANAGE has institutionalized training program on Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture since 2021.

Till date MANAGE has organized 20 training programs on Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture (18 national level and two international level training programs) in which 924 Officers were trained.
