

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2765

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18TH MARCH, 2025

MICRO-IRRIGATION IMPLEMENTATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH

2765. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

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

- (a) the current status of micro-irrigation implementation with a focus on its progress in Tirupati district in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the details of the financial assistance provided to small and marginal farmers, particularly those from minority communities for adopting micro-irrigation technologies along with the details of the beneficiaries in Tirupati district;
- (c) whether the Government's plans to promote water-efficient crops in water-stressed regions of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the specific initiatives being taken to encourage sustainable water usage in agriculture, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme is under implementation in the country, including State of Andhra Pradesh since 2015-16. Since inception of the Scheme till date, an area of 96.97 lakh ha has been covered under micro irrigation which includes 20,819 ha in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh.

(b): Under PDMC Scheme, financial assistance is provided to farmers for installation of micro irrigation systems @ 55% and 45% of the unit cost to small & marginal farmers and other farmers respectively including those of minority community. In addition, Government of Andhra Pradesh provides additional/ top up subsidy to encourage farmers to adopt micro irrigation.

As reported by State government of Andhra Pradesh, since 2015-16 till date, 19,272 farmers have been benefitted under the Scheme in Tirupati district.

(c): As reported by State government of Andhra Pradesh, 14,332 ha of paddy under bore wells and tobacco was diverted to pulses, millets, maize and oilseeds from 2022-23 to 2024-25 under Crop Diversification Program with financial assistance of Rs.138.48 Lakhs. To encourage cultivation of less water intensive crops, several steps are being taken which include promoting water efficient crops like millets and pulses, cluster demonstrations on good agricultural practices, distribution of certified seeds, production of certified seeds, distribution of inputs for soil & plant protection management, establishment of millet processing units, organization of workshops, supply of mini flour mills and trainings on post harvest management/ value addition etc.

(d): Indian Council of Agricultural Research is engaged in research and promotion of micro irrigation through all India coordinated programmes, consortia platforms and KVKs. It has developed optimum drip irrigation schedule for different crops in different agro-ecological regions of the country. Further, drip fertigation schedules for 24 crops have been developed for efficient use of water, thereby, bringing more area under micro irrigation. ICAR also imparts training, organizes field demonstrations to educate farmers, administrators and other stakeholder on all these aspects.

ICAR has developed cost effective, location specific scientific technologies viz., rainwater harvesting and recycling, multiple use of water, conjunctive use of rain, surface and groundwater resources, smart and precision technologies for irrigation and farming practices, optimum irrigation scheduling, resource conservation technologies, development of land drainage and reclamation of problem soils to enhance irrigation water efficiency and water productivity. These are being popularized amongst the farming community.
