

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2888**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025

**PROMOTING FARMING AS A VIABLE CAREER OPTION AMONG YOUTH**

2888. SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the constant decline in the number of farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the decline during the past decade and the key factors for the same;
- (c) the initiatives taken by the Government to promote farming as a viable career option among youth, including programmes in schools and colleges;
- (d) the measures being implemented to increase per farmer income and make agriculture more financially attractive for the younger generation; and
- (e) whether the Government has introduced any skill development, technological advancements, or financial incentives to encourage youth participation in agriculture and 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) & (b): Number of operational holders\*/farmers based on three agriculture censuses conducted by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare on quinquennial basis, are given as below:

S. No.	Agriculture Census	Number of Operational Holder*/Farmer (in '000)
1	2005-06	1,29,222
2	2010-11	1,38,348
3	2015-16	1,46,454

\* A person who has the responsibility for the operation of the agriculture holding for agricultural production and is operated as one technical unit without regard to the title, legal form, size or location.

(c) to (e): Agriculture is a State subject and Government of India supports the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures, budgetary allocation and various schemes/ programmes. The various schemes/ programmes of the Government of India are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support to farmers. The Major schemes/programmes initiated by DA&FW to enhance overall income of farmers and remunerative returns in the agriculture sector are as under:

1. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)

3. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)/ Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)
4. Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)
5. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
6. Formation and Promotion of 10,000 new Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs)
7. National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)
8. Namo Drone Didi
9. National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)
10. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)
11. Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (Agri SURE)
12. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)
13. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM)
14. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
15. Soil Health & Fertility (SH&F)
16. Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
  
17. Agroforestry
18. Crop Diversification Programme (CDP)
19. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)
20. Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP)
21. National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM)
22. Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM)
23. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
24. National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oil Palm
25. National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oilseeds
26. Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region
27. Digital Agriculture Mission
28. National Bamboo Mission

Government has taken various initiatives to promote farming as a viable career option for youth, among which the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) provides need-based vocational training to farmers, farm women and rural adolescents in order to transform their knowledge, skills and attitudes, thereby raising their standard of living. Realizing the significance of rural youth for agricultural growth, ICAR has launched a programme named "Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture" (ARYA). Under this strategy, special efforts are made to attract rural youth under the age of 35 to agriculture, thus restricting the rural youth migration to cities.

The Government is implementing Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) with the objective to impart short term skill training (seven days duration) to rural youths and farmers in agriculture and allied sectors for upgradation of their knowledge and skills and promote wage/self employment in rural areas. The component aims at providing short duration skill based training programs to rural youth including women farmers on agri-based vocational areas for creating a pool of skilled manpower. Recently, the STRY programme has been subsumed under Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) cafeteria.

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