

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2990
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18TH MARCH, 2025

ENCOURAGING KINNOW GROWERS

2990. Shri Kuldeep Indora:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures to encourage Kinnow growers to adopt new techniques for enhancing the quality and production of Kinnow in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the research being done so far;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to extend necessary technical help to the Kinnow growers in Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Kinnow, a high-yielding citrus fruit grown in India particularly in Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana. Punjab Agriculture University (PAU), Ludhiana (Punjab) has developed various technologies to boost Kinnow production in the country through release of improved varieties like PAU Kinnow-1 along with root stock breeding for diseases and salinity tolerance. In addition to these, techniques for standardization of containerized nursery production technology, bud forcing technique, high density planting, standardization of packaging technologies, enhancement of shelf life, integrated diseases & pests management and development of fruit fly trap etc. have been developed.

The All India Coordinated Research Project on Citrus, Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University (SKRAU)- Agricultural Research Station at Sriganganagar, Rajasthan standardized the insect pest management schedule, fertilizer schedule based on soil and leaf nutrient status, drip irrigation schedule for water management, plastic mulching (100 micron) for weed control, conservation of soil moisture and organic package of practices for Kinnow mandarin for the state of Rajasthan.

Department of Horticulture, Punjab established Center of Excellence for only citrus fruits with the collaboration of Israel Government (Indo-Israel Project) where transfer of new technologies has been done for quality citrus production. Similarly, the State Government of Haryana has also established a Centre of Excellence at Sirsa for quality planting materials, crop technology demonstration and training.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare through Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and the National Horticulture Board (NHB), provides financial and technical support for citrus cultivation including Kinnow for planting material production, area expansion, high-density planting, post-harvest management, trainings, exposure visit, demonstration and awareness programs etc. in the country including Rajasthan.

Citri Hub, the Agri-Business Incubation Centre of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Citrus Research Institute, Nagpur, organized an incubation programme in Rajasthan focusing on citrus nursery management and nursery entrepreneurship in the year 2024. During the incubation, they received in-depth training in crucial aspects of citrus nursery management, including the establishment and maintenance of mother blocks, traditional budding methods, micro-budding, containerized nursery techniques, nursery accreditation, marketing strategy and business plan development.
