

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4091

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH MARCH, 2025

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN WEST BENGAL

4091. SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:

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

- (a) the current status of agricultural productivity in West Bengal and the key crops contributing to the State's economy;
- (b) the initiatives undertaken to support farmers, including access to credit, modern farming techniques and irrigation facilities;
- (c) the progress of rural development programmes aimed at improving infrastructure, education and healthcare in agricultural communities; and
- (d) the measures being taken to ensure sustainable farming practices and address challenges such as climate change and pest management?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): The current status of agricultural productivity in West Bengal and the key crops contributing to the State's economy is given at Annexure.

(b): The following initiatives are undertaken by the Government of India to support farmers, including access to credit, modern farming techniques and irrigation facilities:

1. National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM)
2. National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oil Palm
3. National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oilseeds
4. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
5. National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)
6. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
7. Soil Health & Fertility (SH&F)
8. Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
9. Agroforestry
10. Crop Diversification Programme (CDP)
11. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)
12. Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP)

13. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
14. National Bamboo Mission
15. National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)
16. Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region
17. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)
18. Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM)
19. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
20. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)
21. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)/ Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)
22. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshhan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)
23. Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)
24. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
25. Formation and Promotion of 10,000 new Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs)
26. Namo Drone Didi
27. Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises (AgriSURE)
28. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM)
29. Digital Agriculture Mission

(c): The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has adopted multi-pronged strategies to improve the economic well-being of people in rural areas with the main focus on increasing livelihood opportunities, infrastructure development, providing social safety net, skilling of rural youth, etc. through its Programmes in rural areas of the country. In this regard, the Government is implementing a number of targeted programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri AwaasYojana-Gramin (PMAYG), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY), Rural Self Employment Training Institutes(RSETIs) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY)

For facilitating basic education in the country including rural areas, the Ministry of Education is implementing Samagra Shiksha - an integrated Scheme for school education from 2018-19, an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education across the country including rural areas.

For ensuring health services in rural areas, under National Health Mission (NHM) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), steps have been taken towards universal health coverage by supporting the State Government in providing improved health infrastructure, adequate human resources in health facilities, improved availability and accessibility to quality health care especially for the underserved and marginalized groups in rural areas.

Under National Health Mission, through Ayushman Arogya Mandir, comprehensive primary healthcare is provided by strengthening Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs). The MoH&FW supports 'Free Diagnostics Service Initiative' programme under NHM. To ensure availability of essential drugs and reduce the Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OoPE) of the patients visiting the public health facilities, the Government has rolled out the Free Drugs Service Initiative under NHM.

(d): The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) from 2015-16 onwards. PDMC focuses on enhancing water-use efficiency at farm-level through Micro Irrigation viz. Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. The Micro Irrigation helps in saving water as well as reduced fertilizer usage (through fertigation), labour expenses, other input costs and thereby, creating overall income enhancement of farmers. Further, NITI Aayog conducted an evaluation study on PDMC scheme during the year 2021, which revealed that productivity increased in the range of 9% to 100% for various crops in different States through adoption of micro irrigation.

Further, The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is focusing on the development of high yielding climate resilient and nutritionally rich field crop varieties along with the location specific production and protection technologies. Developed improved varieties, production and protection technologies are being disseminated among farmers for large scale adoption through outreach activities viz., training/sensitization programmes during the crop season, on-farm trials & frontline demonstrations, diagnostic field visits and field friends programmes as well as through social media platforms

In order to address climate change challenges in agriculture and the strain on natural resources, 537 extreme climate tolerant varieties have been developed and notified for commercial cultivation during past ten years (2014-24) out of which 318 varieties are drought tolerant/moisture stress tolerant/water stress tolerant/limited water tolerant/low rainfall; 81 flood/submergence/water logging/ deep water tolerant; 69 salinity /moderate salinity/alkalinity/sodic soils tolerant; 51 heat stress /high temperature tolerant and 18 Cold /frost/winter chilling tolerant.

Annexure**The current status of agricultural productivity in West Bengal and the key crops contributing to the State's economy**

Crop	Season	Yield (Kg/Ha)
		2023-24
Rice	Kharif	2874
	Summer	3617
	Total	3064
Jute	Kharif	2894
Maize	Kharif	3974
	Rabi	6872
	Summer	7239
	Total	6633
Sugarcane	Kharif	66583
Rapeseed & Mustard	Rabi	1244
Wheat	Rabi	3127
Groundnut	Kharif	1560
	Rabi	1902
	Summer	3280
	Total	3060
Mesta	Kharif	2448
Lentil	Rabi	913
Other Pulses	Kharif	683
	Rabi	1191
	Total	1188
Gram	Rabi	1242
Urad	Kharif	737
	Rabi	791
	Total	739
