

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 390
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22ND JULY, 2025

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES FOR FARMERS ON DIGITAL AGRICULTURE

390. SHRI UJJWAL RAMAN SINGH:

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

- (a) the measures being taken by the Government to familiarise farmers with digital agriculture, including the use of technologies such as sensors, drones, and precision irrigation systems to help to improve the yield and quality of their crops;
- (b) the details of awareness programmes being conducted by the Government for farmers in this regard, State-wise, and
- (c) the time by which the farmers will become proficient in digital agriculture?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government has taken various steps to familiarise farmers with digital agriculture, including the use of technologies such as sensors, drones, and precision irrigation systems to help improve the yield and quality of their crops. Some of these are given below:

- I. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension" through DD Regional Kendra, DD Kisan and All India Radio to create awareness and dissemination of scheme benefits among the farming community across the Country, including agri-based entrepreneurs in India. Under the scheme, 18 DD Regional Kendras, 97 FM stations of AIR and DD Kisan are being utilized for wider publicity of department schemes, on-going initiatives, policy decisions, advisories etc. In addition, Audio-Visual spots are being used to broadcast and telecast information about the DA&FW schemes through Doordarshan (DD), All India Radio (AIR), private TV and radio channels as a part of 'Focused Publicity and Awareness Campaign'. In addition to the above, publicity & awareness

campaigns are also carried out through Outdoor Publicity as well as through print media advertisements in leading newspapers across the country. The social media platforms viz. Facebook, X, Instagram, Threads, YouTube, LinkedIn, Whatsapp, Public App, etc. are also being used for better outreach and wider publicity about the details of Farmers Welfare Schemes of the Department.

- II. Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA) Scheme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, is presently being implemented in 740 districts of 28 states & 5 UTs in the country. The scheme promotes a decentralized and farmer-friendly extension system in the country. The objectives of the Scheme is to support State Government's efforts and to make available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied areas including digital agriculture to farmers through different extension activities viz; Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc. State-wise details of farmers benefited through different extension activities under the scheme during the last three years are enclosed at Annexure-I
- III. 'Kisan e-Mitra' is a voice-based AI-powered chatbot developed to assist farmers with responses to their queries on the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. This solution supports 11 regional languages and is evolving to assist with other government programs. At present, it handles over 20,000 farmer queries daily, and so far, more than 95 lakh queries have been answered.
- IV. The National Pest Surveillance System, for tackling the loss of produce due to climate change, utilizes AI and Machine Learning to detect pest infestation in crop issues, enabling timely intervention for healthier crops. This tool, currently used by over 10,000 extension workers, allows farmers to capture images of pests to help them mitigate pest attacks and reduce crop losses. At present, it supports 61 crops and over 400 pests.
- V. To promote use of drones in agriculture, and Demonstration of newly developed agricultural/ horticultural/crop residue management machines post-harvest technologies under SMAM, financial assistance @ 100% of the cost of drone up to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakhs per drone is provided for its purchase and demonstration on the farmers' fields by the institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), State and other Central Government Agricultural Institutions/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Government of India engaged agricultural activities. The

government has provided funds of Rs. 5250 lakhs for the procurement of 300 Kisan drones to the ICAR. The ICAR institutes to date have procured 296 Kisan drones, and organized 27114 Drones Demonstrations for the awareness and familiarization with the use of Drones in Agriculture and a total of 315648 farmers from different states participated in the demonstration programmes. The details are attached in Annexure II.

- VI. Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the Country from 2015-16. PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at the farm level through Micro-Irrigation, namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. The Micro Irrigation helps in water saving as well as reducing fertilizer usage through fertigation, labour expenses, other input costs and overall income enhancement of farmers. The Government provides financial assistance @ 55% for small and marginal farmers and @ 45% for other farmers for the installation of Drip and Sprinkler systems under the PDMC.

**DETAILS OF FARMERS BENEFITTED UNDER A.T.M.A. SCHEME FROM 2022-23 TO
2024-25**

SL. No.	States/UTs	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	28103	37553	1636	67292
2	Bihar	395982	574595	222698	1193275
3	Chhattisgarh	114488	19623	69587	203698
4	Goa	6271	14449	8137	28857
5	Gujarat	384771	140042	121084	645897
6	Haryana	50606	25320	5674	81600
7	Himachal Pradesh	15784	42925	41555	100264
8	Jammu & Kashmir	24215	24162	68128	116505
9	Jharkhand	44912	40447	45759	131118
10	Karnataka	260928	140256	154268	555452
11	Kerala	107649	107174	39425	254248
12	Maharashtra	436346	456013	415544	1307903
13	Madhya Pradesh	186507	375572	67883	629962
14	Orissa	84526	40607	135199	260332
15	Punjab	73614	64048	61659	199321
16	Rajasthan	246830	20403	455016	722249
17	Telangana	4260	311	6067	10638
18	Tamil Nadu	488331	520316	776503	1785150
19	Uttar Pradesh	470492	602577	619101	1692170
20	Uttarakhand	53890	46775	54273	154938
21	West Bengal	298899	177855	236498	713252
22	Assam	40025	40845	51577	132447
23	Arunachal Pradesh	56682	23000	60642	140324
24	Manipur	22776	5400	31950	60126
25	Meghalaya	16265	30585	28064	74914
26	Mizoram	7440	3558	4713	15711
27	Nagaland	58588	41571	60483	150007
28	Tripura	5592	14611	36436	56639
29	Sikkim	6576	7791	7809	22176
30	Delhi	5500	0	525	6025
31	Puducherry	7146	10837	5981	23964
32	A&N	7641	9833	9811	27285
33	Ladakh	244	1535	740	2519
	Total -	4011879	3660589	3904425	11566258

Details of State-wise, Numbers of demonstrations conducted, Area Covered through drone demonstrations and beneficiary

S. No.	State	Drone Demonstration (Nos.)	Area Covered in Drone Demonstration (Ha)	Total Farmers Participated (Nos.)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1606	3191	13285
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	5	40
3	Assam	482	291	11754
4	Bihar	2843	2176	6015
5	Chhattisgarh	1388	1424	21522
6	Gujarat	1348	587	2660
7	Haryana	2077	1234	51132
8	HP	800	906	13265
9	J&K	530	550	30330
10	Jharkhand	948	590	1004
11	Karnataka	1787	2818	14618
12	Kerala	1506	1867	12161
13	Madhya Pradesh	6079	4228	36269
14	Maharashtra	485	470	15778
15	Manipur	34	34	164
16	Meghalaya	82	94	1244
17	Mizoram	27	31	780
18	Nagaland	10	302	1463
19	Odisha	21	283	850
20	Punjab	368	405	4021
21	Rajasthan	780	744	23681
22	Sikkim	250	130	2750
23	Tamil Nadu	908	1399	9615
24	Telangana	263	1064	4764
25	Tripura	195	109	5932
26	Tripura	195	109	5932
27	UP	1052	1891	10139
28	Uttarakhand	383	321	1201
29	West Bengal	240	1773	8963
30	Delhi	426	500	4316
