

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 410
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2025

SCHEMES FOR CROP DIVERSIFICATION IN RAIN-FED AREAS

410. SHRI AMARSING TISSO:

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing any crop diversification schemes in rain-fed tribal areas of Assam, especially in Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts;
- (b) if so, the details of the crops promoted and the areas covered;
- (c) the financial assistance or incentives provided to farmers under such schemes; and
- (d) the steps taken to integrate these schemes with value chain and market access initiatives?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Centrally sponsored scheme viz; Rainfed Area Development (RAD), National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) and National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Seeds (NMEO-OS) across the country including Assam. The Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts of Assam are also covered under these scheme.

The Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability. Under RAD, crops/cropping system is integrated with activities like horticulture, livestock, fishery, agro-forestry, apiculture etc. to enable farmers not only in maximizing farm returns for sustaining livelihood, but also to mitigate the impacts of drought, flood or other extreme weather events. In Karbi Anglong district, Capacity Building Training are also conducted to integrate the scheme with value chain and the farmers are trained for post harvest storage of the farm products and processing of the by-products, packaging and sealing. Also the process is continuing to enrol and form farmers into a FPO, so that proper marketing is done to promote export and expand new market. In Dima Hasao district farmers are linked with local Buyers.

The National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-OS) aims to boost domestic oilseed production to strive towards self-reliant in edible oils in the country. Under NMEO-Oilseeds, over 600 Value Chain Clusters have been identified across the country, covering more than 10 lakh hectares annually. These clusters are managed by Value Chain Partners (VCPs), including Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and cooperatives. Farmers in these clusters are getting free high-quality seeds, training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and advisory services on weather and pest management. Additionally, states also conducting block demonstrations to create awareness among farmers about the latest high-yielding varieties and technologies. In addition, the mission supports Government/Private industries, FPOs and cooperatives for setting up post-harvest infrastructure including improving the capacity or efficiency of existing infrastructure for increasing the efficiency of oilseed collection, oil extraction & recovery. This also enhances the recovery of valuable products from secondary sources such as cottonseed, rice bran, corn oil, and Tree-Borne Oils (TBOs), contributing to sustainable agricultural practices and better income generation for farmers.

The NMEO-OP strives to boost oil palm cultivation in the country through area expansion, production inputs, market support and technology transfer. It provides assistance for planting, intercropping, irrigation, mechanization, and replanting, alongside price assurance through viability gap funding to the farmers. The scheme also promotes new technologies, farmer training, and infrastructure development to enhance productivity and efficiency.

Further, the Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under the Pradhan Mantri - Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) in the Original Green Revolution States viz; Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh since 2013-14 to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternative crops, like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton etc. however, CDP is not implemented in Assam.
