

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2600**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025

**NUTRI-SENSITIVE AGRI-RESOURCES AND INNOVATIONS PROGRAMME**

2600. SHRI BHASKAR MURLIDHAR BHAGARE:  
SHRI MOHITE PATIL DHAIRYASHEEL RAJSINH:  
SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL:  
SMT. SUPRIYA SULE:  
PROF. VARSHA EKNATH GAIKWAD:  
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:

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

- (a) the steps undertaken to implement the Nutri-Sensitive Agri-Resources & Innovations (NARI) Programme nationwide along with specific data on its implementation in Maharashtra;
- (b) the key objectives of the NARI Programme and the manner in which it aims to address nutritional deficiencies among rural communities in Maharashtra;
- (c) the details of the programme's rollout in the 75 selected villages including those located in Maharashtra;
- (d) the details of estimated number of individuals in Maharashtra expected to benefit from the NARI Programme and the target population the Government seeks to reach;
- (e) whether the Government has taken concrete steps to promote crop biofortification in the country, particularly in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for limited progress; and
- (f) whether 531 licensed private seed companies and FPOs including those operating in Maharashtra have achieved measurable outcomes in the production and distribution of biofortified seed varieties and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि और किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a), (b) & (d): Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are implementing Nutri-Sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovations (NARI) to strengthen health and nutrition among the rural population.

The activities under NARI promotes diversified diets, nutri-gardens, nutri-Thalis, biofortified crop varieties, and capacity building on nutrition-sensitive agriculture. NARI activities covered 16,281 farm women through demonstrations on nutrition garden and biofortified crops during 2024-25. Besides, capacity building programmes were organized to educate 1.1 lakh farm women.

During the same year, KVKs of Maharashtra conducted 748 demonstrations on nutri-garden and 73 on biofortified crop varieties; and organized 204 trainings and extension activities benefitting 6640 farm women.

The key objective of NARI activities is to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture through awareness and capacity building programme on nutri-gardens, nutri-thalis, and biofortified crops. The activities in NARI is to create awareness, update knowledge and develop skills of farm women of Maharashtra on different aspects of nutrition leading to address nutritional deficiencies among rural communities. About 8000 farm families are estimated to be benefitted in Maharashtra under NARI.

(c): The ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture have implemented Nutri-Smart Village programme through its All India Coordinated Research Project on Women in Agriculture in 75 villages across the country including 5 villages in Parbhani district of Maharashtra. A total of 3,821 nutri-gardens were established; 30 quintals of seeds were provided to farm families; and 425 exhibitions were conducted to create awareness and knowledge on nutri-smart practices under the programme. A total of 25 exhibitions and 160 capacity-building programmes were organized in Maharashtra benefitting 29,800 farm families.

(e): The Government has taken steps to promote crop biofortification across the country including Maharashtra. ICAR has developed 205 biofortified varieties (185 of field crops and 20 of horticultural crops) and is planned to promote them through the KVKs, including in Maharashtra under the CFLD (Cluster Frontline Demonstration) programme (2025-26) on biofortified crops varieties. These varieties are also promoted under the NFSNM (National Food Security and Nutrition Mission) for major crops.

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare also advises the States and Seed producing agencies etc. to place the breeder seeds indents of newly released High Yielding Varieties (including biofortified) varieties of various crops developed by ICAR Institutes/State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) etc. for further multiplication into foundation and certified seeds, so as to make available required seeds of these crops' varieties to the farmers.

Under NFSNM, the financial assistance is available/provided for the different seed related activities viz., for purchase of breeder seeds, distribution of foundation and certified seeds (at 50.0%) including biofortified varieties of various crops so that sufficient seeds of these varieties could be made available to farmers.

(f): As reported by various State Govt., there are more than 1.86 lakh Seed Producers license and 2.07 lakh Seed Dealers licenses have been issued across the country to carryout production and distribution of seeds (including bio-fortified seeds varieties). Of that 1375 Seed Producers license and 44,563 Seed Dealer licenses have been issued in Maharashtra. During the year 2024-25, a total of 15,043.5 qtls of breeder bio-fortified seeds varieties were produced. Similarly, 20,422.9 qtls of foundation, certified and TL seeds of biofortified seeds of field crops were produced in the same duration. In Maharashtra, 16 qtls of bio-fortified breeder seeds and 94.2 qtls of quality seeds were produced and distributed to farmers. The production and distribution of these seeds have been achieved taking help of seed producers in public and private Seed companies including FPOs.

\*\*\*\*\*