

PROMOTION OF AGRO TEXTILES

367. SMT. MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH:
SHRI NALIN SOREN:
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES वस्त्र मंत्री
be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to promote the use of agro-textiles for agricultural productivity and farmer welfare and if so, the details thereof State-wise including Dumka District in Jharkhand and Uttarakhand;
- (b) the number of Smart Agro-Textile Centres established along with their objectives, cost, and the current operational status of these centres, State-wise including Jharkhand and Uttarakhand;
- (c) the total number of farmers trained or benefited through these centres and programmes State-wise including Jharkhand and Uttaranchal; and
- (d) where the Government to expand agro-textile interventions to more regions and integrate them with rural livelihood schemes in the State of Jharkhand and Uttarakhand and if so, the details thereof?

उत्तर
ANSWER
वस्त्र राज्य मंत्री (श्री पबित्र मार्घेरिता)
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) to (c): With a view to boost Technical Textiles sector in the country including agro-textiles, Ministry of Textiles launched National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) in the year 2020. Under the Mission, 14 Research Projects pertaining to agro-textiles have been approved **(Details given in Annexure-I)**. Further, a Climate-Smart Agro-Textile Demonstration Centre has been established at Navsari, Gujarat at a total cost of Rs. 3.73 crore in December 2024 to promote innovative and sustainable agro-textile applications for the agriculture sector through live demonstrations, training for farmers, and awareness programmes to enhance productivity, reduce costs, improve climate resilience, and encourage sustainable practices. The Demo Centre is being operated by the Synthetic & Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA). A total of 576 farmers have been trained in the Center so far.

(d): National Technical Textiles Mission is a Pan-India initiative to promote technical textiles in the country. The Mission has strategic focus on agro-textiles, recognizing its vital role in enhancing agricultural sustainability and productivity. The interventions under NTTM focus on Research & Innovation, Market Development, Export Promotion and Skilling.

List of Research & Development Projects approved for Agro textiles under NTTM

| S. No. | Project Title | Implementing Institute |
|--------|---|---|
| 1 | Insecticide incorporated Agronets: Green Technology to minimize the insecticide burden to biosphere | Defence Research Laboratory (DRL), DRDO, Assam |
| 2 | Development of long lasting and biodegradable electrospun/ needle punch nonwoven composite mulch using natural fibrous wastes. | IIT Delhi |
| 3 | Evaluation of natural fibre based agro-textile products in protected eco-friendly structures for production of high value horticultural crops | IIT Kharagpur |
| 4 | Functional textiles for tackling organophosphate insecticides, pesticides and nerve agents' toxicity | IIT-Indore |
| 5 | Use of Jute Agro Textiles as prospective mulching material to test the suitability of mango based intercropping systems towards increasing crop productivity and promotion of livelihood security for the backward farming community Red and Lateritic Zones of West Bengal | Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, West Bengal |
| 6 | Sustainable use of unconventional fibres of Indian Himalayas for Agro textiles | CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, Palampur |
| 7 | Development of natural herbal extract coated seed protection bag using natural fiber with long lasting mechanical and insecticidal properties | South Indian Research Association (SITRA), Coimbatore |
| 8 | Development of Crop cover, mulch, soil protection fabrics and other products using Sun hemp and Banana Fibre | Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA), Ghaziabad |
| 9 | Development of Energy Responsive Agrotextile for low cost opportunities to grow off-season vegetable/fruits | Synthetic & Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA), Mumbai |
| 10 | Development of eco-friendly natural fibres based sustainable agro-textiles for packaging of agro products with protection against rodents, microorganisms including bacteria, fungi and viruses and UV repellent properties | Wool Research Association (WRA), Mumbai |
| 11 | Development of jute bags for protection and quality preservation of stored seeds | Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Kolkata |
| 12 | Natural fibre waste to planting growth media: development characterization and evaluation in soilless crop production system | Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Kolkata |
| 13 | Development of Tunable Agro textile with Smart Functionalities For Enhanced Crops Production | Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research–Central Leather Research Institute (CSIR–CLRI), Chennai |
| 14 | Development of foam-in-place packaging using agricultural residue | IIT Kanpur |