

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1649
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH FEBRUARY, 2026

CROP DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAMMES

1649. SMT. SHAMBHAVI:
SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
DR. LATA WANKHEDE:

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

- (a) the data on the area covered under crop diversification programmes since 2018 along with the percentage reduction in paddy/wheat cultivation area and the increase in area under oilseeds, pulses, and millets in water-stressed and high-input zones, State and year-wise;
- (b) the data on the funds allocated, sanctioned, disbursed and expended for the crop diversification initiatives over the last five years, State and year wise;
- (c) the details of the key steps have been taken by the Government to promote horticulture, pulses, oilseeds, and coarse cereals in traditionally paddy/wheat-dominated areas;
- (d) the details of the key measures which have been undertaken by the Government to promote crop diversification as a strategy for sustainable agriculture and risk mitigation; and
- (e) whether the Government is considering to incentivize high-value crops like medicinal plants, floriculture, or organic vegetables in peri-urban and tribal regions?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing the Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), which is a centrally sponsored scheme under the Pradhan Mantri- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) in the Original Green Revolution States viz; Haryana, Punjab & Uttar Pradesh since 2013-14 to divert the area of water guzzling paddy crop to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, etc. The primary objective of the scheme is to demonstrate and promote improved production technologies of alternate crops for diversion of paddy cultivation as well as to restore soil fertility through cultivation of leguminous crops that generate heavy biomass and consume lesser nutrients. Under CDP, assistance is given for alternative crop demonstration, farm mechanization and value addition items, for site specific activities and for awareness, training etc. CDP was extended for replacing tobacco crop in the major tobacco growing states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal from 2015-16. From 2018-19 to 2024-25, Alternate Crop Demonstrations were conducted over a total area of 186546 hectares for paddy and tobacco replacement under the CDP. Area diverted from paddy and tobacco under CDP through alternative crop demonstrations is enclosed at **Annexure-I**. The financial Assistance under CDP is provided & the cost norms are enclosed at **Annexure-II**.

Further, DA&FW has approved a pilot project on “Crop Diversification” for five years (2023-24 to 2027-28) under NFSNM through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research (ICAR-IIFSR), Modipuram with a total outlay of Rs.1326.60 lakhs.

The Government of India is further encouraging crop diversification among farmers through the state governments to grow crops such as coarse cereals, nutri cereals (Shree Anna) under the National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), pulses under Mission for Aatmanirbharata on Pulses, oilseeds under the National Mission on Edible Oil (NMEO)-Oilseeds and horticultural crops under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). The Government of India also provides flexibility to the states, for state specific needs/priorities under the Pradhan Mantri – Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY). The states can promote crop diversification under the PM-RKVY with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC). Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) scheme covers 100 selected aspirational districts across the country, through convergence of 36 existing schemes across 11 Departments, other State schemes and local partnerships with the private sector. Under PMDDKY, Crop diversification is one of the main objectives which is addressed through their interventions and convergence policies. During the period 2018-19 to 2024-25, the area under food grains cultivation in the country had increased by 127.72 lakh ha. This includes the area under millets’ cultivation, which had also increased by 5.13 lakh ha. Similarly, the area under Oilseeds in the country has also increased by 56.46 lakh ha during the said period.

To promote sustainable agriculture practices in the country, several schemes are being implemented to encourage farmers such as Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), Per Drop More Crop (PDMC), etc. The PDMC scheme increases water use efficiency at the farm level through micro irrigation technologies i.e. drip and sprinkler irrigation. PKVY & NMNF are implemented for promotion of organic farming and natural farming respectively among the farmers.

Annexure-I.**Area diverted through alternative crop demonstrations under Crop Diversification Programme during the year 2013-14 to 2024-25**

Year	Alternative Crop Demonstrations (ha.)
2013-14	109723
2014-15	196821
2015-16	98537
2016-17	39406
2017-18	65014
2018-19	35345
2019-20	13604
2020-21	73758
2021-22	40593
2022-23	5747
2023-24	14019
2024-25	3480
Total	696047

Pattern of Assistance under Crop Diversification Programme (CDP)

a) CDP in Original Green Revolution States

Sl. No.	Component/Intervention	Rate of Assistance
1.	Alternate crop demonstrations	
i.	Pulses	Pulse Mission cost norms (Rs.10000/ha)
ii.	Oilseeds	NMEO-Oilseed norms (Groundnut @ Rs.14,000/ha, Soybean @ Rs.10,000/ha, Sunflower @ Rs.9,000/ha, Sesame/Castor/Niger @ Rs.8000/ha)
iii.	Coarse/Nutri cereals	NFSNM norms (i) For variety Rs.7500/ha (ii) For Hybrid of Maize Rs.11500/ha
iv.	Cotton	NFSNM norms Demonstration on Integrated Crop Management (ICM)/ intercropping/ natural colour cotton @ Rs.8000/ha, on Desi & ELS Cotton @ Rs.9000/ha, on HDPS @10000/ha)
v.	Agro forestry system as sole crop	Rs. 10,000/ha
vi.	Plantation of trees on farm bunds	Cost of saplings limited to Rs.2000/ha
vii.	Inter cropping with agro forestry system	Rs. 5000/ha
2.	Farm Mechanization & Value Addition	According to norms approved under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization / any Centrally Sponsored Scheme / State scheme
3.	Site Specific Activities (like underground pipe line, maize dryer, seeds for green manuring, etc.)	According to norms approved under any Centrally Sponsored Scheme / State scheme
4.	For awareness training, etc.	According to norms approved under any Centrally Sponsored Scheme / State scheme

b) CDP for replacing tobacco farming with alternate crops/cropping system

Tobacco growing States may take up suitable activities/interventions for replacing the tobacco to alternate crops/cropping system as per the cost norms approved under any Centrally Sponsored Scheme/State Scheme.
