

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2869**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> March, 2026

**EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE**

2869. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that approximately 42% of the agricultural workforce comprises women, and nearly half of them are unpaid family workers;
- (b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to leverage technology to formalize women's agricultural labor and ensure a good income;
- (c) whether the Government is addressing the challenges, like the lack of land ownership for women, which restricts access to formalised credit, subsidies, and insurance scheme; if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government plans to formulate an action plan to leverage the International Year of Women Farmers 2026 for the empowerment of women agricultural laborers, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a): The Government is implementing several schemes for farmers, including women farmers, according to existing eligibility rules. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO), MoSPI, covers the estimated percentage of the workforce engaged in the agricultural sector. In rural areas, female agricultural employment rose from 73.2 percent in 2017-18 to 76.9 percent in 2023-24. From the gender perspective, the female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) has been rising for seven years, i.e. from 23.3 percent in 2017-18 to 41.7 percent in 2023-24, driven mainly by the rising participation of rural women.

(b): The Government is implementing Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) scheme and ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICAR-CIWA) to promote adoption of new technologies of agriculture and allied sectors through technology assessment, demonstration and capacity development among the extension functionaries of state governments and farmers including farm women. Under the SMAM scheme, women farmers are provided subsidy on agricultural machinery. States have been instructed to earmark 30% of SMAM funds for women for individual machinery ownership. Under ATMA Scheme, at least 30% of resources are earmarked for women farmers and women extension workers.

(c): Department of Land Recourses, Ministry of Rural Development has recently addressed all States to introduce a column for Gender in the Record of Rights. This step will help to know the number of women land owners. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) provides for comprehensive risk insurance against crop damage from pre-sowing to post-harvest for crops and area notified by the concerned State Government. All willing farmers, including sharecroppers, tenant and women farmers are eligible to enrol under the scheme. The government is implementing the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) across various States and UTs. This scheme aims to provide concessional interest rates on short-term agricultural loans obtained by farmers through Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) for their working capital requirements. Under this scheme, farmers (including women farmers) receive KCC loans at a subsidized interest rate of 7%. Additionally, farmers who repay their loans promptly receive a 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI), effectively reducing the interest rate to 4% per annum.

(d): To commemorate the International Year of Women Farmers 2026, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is organizing Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026) in New Delhi from 12-14 March, 2026 to bring together different stakeholders to share and showcase experiences, case studies and inspiring success stories of women's empowerment and leadership in agriculture; identify and promote national and global best practices for nurturing women's leadership and discuss measures for strengthening the policy framework for mainstreaming gender.

\*\*\*\*\*