

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4035

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17TH MARCH, 2026

PROMOTING THE CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE IN KERALA

4035. SMT. PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of climate changes like shifting monsoon patterns on farmers and crop yields in Kerala especially in hilly districts like Wayanad, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to promote climate resilient agriculture in Kerala, if so, the details thereof including the number of farmers targeted, area covered in hectares, funds allocated for each scheme especially in Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency;
- (c) the details of the financial support provided to small and marginal farmers in Kerala for climate adaptation under Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernization (KCRA) Project including total amount disbursed, number of beneficiaries and average assistance per farmer;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed if KCRA has improved price realisation and reduced climate risks for small and marginal farmers; and
- (e) whether any assessment of climate risks specific to Kerala such as shifting monsoons, floods, salinity was conducted and if so, the details of measures planned to mitigate these risks through agricultural practices?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government, through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) flagship network project National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), has conducted risk and vulnerability assessments for 651 predominantly agricultural districts using the protocol of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Based on the assessment, 109 districts were categorized as very highly vulnerable and 201 districts as highly vulnerable to climate change. In Kerala, the districts of Kasaragod, Kozhikode, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram were categorized under very high risk, while Kannur, Wayanad, Malappuram, Palakkad and Thrissur were categorized under high risk. The project is currently operational in one village cluster each in Kannur, Kottayam, Kozhikode, Palakkad and Wayanad districts for demonstration and adoption of climate-resilient technologies through Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs). Major climate-resilient practices demonstrated include vermicomposting, husk burial and coir pith

compost application in coconut, drum seeding and mat nursery in rice, short-duration paddy varieties, micro-irrigation in coffee, contour trenches in plantations, drainage-cum-irrigation structures in paddy fields, desilting of irrigation canals, improvement of percolation ponds, integrated fish farming, tilapia culture in homestead ponds, improved livestock and poultry shelters and millets as intercrops in coconut gardens. A total fund of ₹3,12,14,558 was allocated to Kerala under the NICRA Technology Demonstration Component during this period, of which ₹50,04,000 was allocated to Wayanad district. During 2021–2026, 7,250 farmers participated in demonstrations covering 2,477 hectares.

(c) & (d): As reported by the State Government of Kerala, the Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernization (KCRA) Project, with a project outlay of ₹2,365.50 crore, commenced on 02.02.2025. The project includes a comprehensive assessment on price realisation and the reduction of climate risks for small and marginal farmers. The project covers 3,00,000 farmers for adoption of climate-resilient technologies in 1,00,000 hectares and about 4,00,000 farmers for enhanced resilience of livelihoods.

(e): Under NICRA, climate risks such as changing monsoon patterns, floods and salinity were assessed, and adaptive measures were promoted. Farmers were advised on late transplantation, and after the 2018 Kerala floods, soil testing and Soil Health Cards were provided to affected farmers. Salinity-tolerant rice varieties have also been promoted in saline ecosystems such as the traditional Pokkali and Kaipad systems. During 2014–2025, 79 crop varieties were released and notified for the State of Kerala, including several climate-resilient varieties tolerant to drought/moisture stress, floods/submergence, heat stress and salinity, which support climate adaptation and enhance resilience of agricultural production systems.
