

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2749
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH DECEMBER, 2023

ADOPTION OF DIGITAL AND INNOVATIVE FARMING TECHNIQUES

2749. SHRI MOHAN MANDAVI:
SHRIMATI HIMADRI SINGH:
SHRI LALLU SINGH:
SHRI CHUNNI LAL SAHU:

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

- (a) the measures initiated by the Government to support farmers in the adoption of digital technology and innovative farming techniques;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted research on technologies that have practical applications for farmers and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the Government schemes or policies in place to offer technological and scientific aid to farmers; and
- (d) the number of farmers in the country who have benefited by adoption of digital technology and latest agricultural techniques including the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (d): The adoption of modern and smart farming technologies by the farmers depends on various factors such as socioeconomic conditions, geographical conditions, crop grown, irrigation facilities etc. However, the Government of India supports and facilitates the State Governments to promote agriculture throughout the country and infusing modern and smart farming technologies into the agriculture sector. The use of modern machines including kisan drones is promoted under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization. Under NeGPA program, funding is given to State Governments for Digital Agriculture Projects using emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning (AI/ML), Internet of Things (IOT), Blockchain etc. A component called “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” has been launched under Rashtriya

Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY-RAFTAAR) in 2018-19 with the objective of promoting innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem. Under this programme, start-ups are encouraged to use innovative technologies to resolve challenges faced in agriculture and allied sectors. The funds are released to the States based on their proposals. Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. The Micro Irrigation helps in water saving as well as reduced fertilizer usage through fertigation, labour expenses, other input costs and overall income enhancement of farmers. Recent evaluation studies of the scheme have reiterated that Micro Irrigation is relevant in achieving national priorities such as improving on-farm water use efficiency, enhancing crop productivity, improving quality of agri/horti. products etc.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is implementing Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) scheme in different States of the Country to support farmers in the adoption of innovative farming techniques developed by National Agricultural Research Systems. The activities of KVKs include on-farm testing to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems; frontline demonstration to establish the production potential of improved agricultural technologies on the farmers' fields; capacity development of farmers for knowledge and skill up gradation; and production of quality seeds, planting materials and other technology inputs for availability to the farmers. In order to develop awareness about agricultural innovations and technologies among the farmers, a large number of extension activities are taken up by the KVKs.

Further, as per the Budget Announcement for the year 2023-24, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has taken various initiatives to build Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture as an open source, open standard and interoperable public good. These initiatives intend to provide access to technology and information to the farmers across the country to address the farmer-centric solutions, through various digital initiatives.
