

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 133
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 2023

HORTICULTURE SHARE IN GLOBAL TRADE

*133. DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that horticulture share of our country in global trade remains insignificant thereby accounting for only 1% of the global trade in vegetables and fruits;
- (b) if so, the details of policies that have been formulated to increase the trade share of our country;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to mitigate effects of challenges that farmers face such as inadequate transport infrastructure, inconsistent supply chains and insufficient storage facilities;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that the State of Andhra Pradesh is emerging as one of the major horticulture hubs in the country with a record growth in production and research in horticulture with an annual production of 312.34 lakh metric tonnes using drone and robotic technologies in horticulture being encouraged by Dr. Y.S.R. University; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government plans to replicate similar approaches across the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 133 DUE FOR REPLY ON 12TH DECEMBER, 2023.

(a): India's total global trade of horticulture products (fruits, vegetables, nuts, spices, honey and floriculture) during 2022 has been of 11639.8 Million USD which accounts for 2.2% of total horticulture global trade. The global trade of fruits and vegetables during 2022 has been of 6438.0 Million USD which accounts for 1.6 % of global trade of fruits and vegetables. The trade of fruits and vegetable has shown increasing trend during 2021 to 2022 i.e. 1.4% to 1.6% of total global trade which is due to cognizance taken by Government of India. India is currently producing 351.92 Million tonnes of horticulture produce which is the highest ever production of horticulture crops. India accounts for about 11.38% of the total world production of fruits and is the leading producers in Mango, banana, Guava, Papaya and Mandarin and overall the second largest producers of fruits & vegetables in the world.

(b): Government of India has taken many initiatives to increase India's Horticulture trade share in Global trade. Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides financial assistance under Agriculture and Processed Foods Export Promotion Scheme for infrastructure development, quality development, adoption of international packaging standards and market promotion. Virtual Trade Fairs (VTFs) and Virtual Buyer Seller Meets have been organized with the help of Indian Missions to tap the export opportunities in different countries. Export Promotion Forums have been constituted for certain fruits for making a strategy for promoting export. Government has been focusing on promotion of exports of locally sourced GI tagged as well as indigenous, ethnic agricultural products. Sea protocol has been developed to reduce the logistic cost for export of horticulture produce. Series of Capacity Building/training programs have been carried out in the Agri Clusters' and States in association with the State departments, SAUs, KVKs for the FPOs/FPCs/SHGs/exporters in order to provide linkage of the Farmer groups to exports and to promote the entrepreneurs for becoming prospective exporters.

(c): Government of India is implementing a centrally sponsored Scheme-Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for the holistic development of horticulture covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa across the country.

Under MIDH, credit linked back-ended assistance is provided for Refrigerated Transport vehicles for transportation of perishable horticulture crops. Details of the cost norms alongwith pattern of assistance is as under:

Item	Cost Norms	Pattern of Assistance
Refrigerated Transport vehicle	Rs. 26.00 lakh for 9 MT and prorata basis for lesser capacity, but not below 4 MT.	Credit linked back-ended subsidy @ 35% of the cost of project in general areas and 50% of cost in case of Hilly & Scheduled areas, per beneficiary.

Under MIDH, financial assistance is provided for construction/Expansion/Modernization of cold storages of capacity up to 5000 MT in the country. The component of Cold Storage is demand/entrepreneur driven for which Government assistance in the form of credit linked back ended subsidy is available at the rate of 35% of the project cost in general areas and 50% of the project cost in hilly and scheduled areas through respective State Horticulture Missions.

Further, to strengthen supply chain of horticulture crops, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has launched Horticulture Cluster Development Programme for selected high value horticulture crops. This Programme is designed to leverage the geographical specialization of horticulture clusters and promote integrated and market led development of pre-production, production, post-harvest, logistics, branding and marketing activities resulting in overall strengthening of the supply chain of horticulture crops.

Besides, National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing a scheme namely "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Products". Under the scheme, credit linked back-ended subsidy at the rate of 35% of the capital cost of the project in general areas and 50% in case of North East, hilly & scheduled areas for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storage and Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage of capacity above 5000 MT and up to 10000 MT is available. In case of North East region, the units with capacity above 1000 MT are also eligible for assistance.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) implements a Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain, Food Processing and Preservation Infrastructure as one of the components of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) with the objective of reducing post-harvest losses of horticulture and non-horticulture produce and providing remunerative price to farmers for their produce. Under the scheme, Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid at the rate of 35% for general areas and 50% for North East and Himalayan States, ITDP areas and Islands for storage and transport infrastructure and at the rate of 50% and 75% respectively for value addition and processing infrastructure subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of Rs. 10.00 crore per project for setting up of integrated cold chain projects including irradiation facility. Standalone cold storages are not covered under the Scheme.

As per available information, currently, there are 8653 cold storages in the country with the capacity of 394.17 lakh MT as on date.

Apart from the above, Government has launched Agriculture Infrastructure Funds (AIF) of Rs. 1.0 lakh crore. Under AIF, there is provision for collateral free term loan up to Rs. 2.0 crore and interest subvention of 3% on the term loan availed under AIF. All the post-harvest infrastructure including establishment of cold storages and warehouses are eligible for this financing facility through AIF.

(d) & (e): Yes, Government is aware that Andhra Pradesh is emerging as one of the major horticulture hubs. As per 2nd Advance Estimate 2022-23, production of horticulture crops in Andhra Pradesh is 276.98 lakh metric tonnes. Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University is focusing on training, research and demonstrations of application of Agriculture drones in cultivation of horticulture crops. Further, Dr. YSRHU recently developed “Robotic Sprayer” using sensor technology for use in protected structures, demonstrating the university’s commitment towards innovation. Looking into the unique advantages of Drone technologies in agriculture including horticulture, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has released the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for use of drones in pesticide and nutrient application. In order to make drone technology affordable to the farmers and other stakeholders of this sector, 100% financial assistance of cost of drone together with the contingent expenditure is extended under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) to the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, Institute of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) for its demonstration on the farmers’ fields. Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) are provided grants @75% for purchase of drones for its demonstration on the farmers’ fields. In order to provide agricultural services through drone application, financial assistance @ 40% of the basic cost of drone and its attachments and maximum up to Rs. 4 lakhs is also provided for drone purchase by existing and new Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs). The agriculture graduates establishing CHCs are eligible to receive financial assistance @ 50% of the cost of drone up to a maximum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

Apart from the above, Government of India has recently approved a dedicated Central Sector Scheme for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs), with an outlay of Rs. 1261 cores for the period from 2024-25 to 2025-26, under which a provision of financial assistance @ 80% of the cost of drone and accessories/ancillary charges up to a maximum of Rs. 8.0 lakhs have been made for Women SHGs.
