

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1464
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15/12/2023

MAPPING OF SOIL ERODIBILITY

1464. SHRI VAIKO:
SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi has conducted national scale mapping of soil erodibility, combined effort of rainfall, infiltration and runoff;
- (b) whether the Ministry has examined the report for planning and research purposes;
- (c) whether the national soil conservation plan is proposed to be launched as a part of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA);
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, in what manner Government plans to help farmers towards soil conservation and sustainability, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMER'S WELFARE
SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) & (b): Yes sir, IIT, Delhi has conducted National Scale Mapping of Soil Erodibility based on the properties of soil particles, such as, the percentage content of silt, sand, clay and soil organic carbon including soil texture, soil structure code and soil permeability code and published a research report in a journal. The published research report has been examined which concludes that the mapping of soil erodibility helps in systematic and comprehensive understanding of soil erosion in India. Further, report can be utilised for planning future research related to soil erosion aspects. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) – Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC), Dehradun is the nodal institute for conducting research on soil erosion in the country. The Institute is also involved in imparting regular trainings for field functionaries working in the field of soil and water conservation.

(c) to (e): Government of India launched National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture to promote sustainable conservation practices. The Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is implementing Watershed Development component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) to develop degraded lands from 2015-16. Under WDC-PMKSY 1.0, as per information received from the State/UT, since 2015-16 to 2021-22, approximately 6.56 lakh water harvesting structures have been created / rejuvenated. An additional area of about 14.54 lakh hectare has been brought under protective irrigation. The number of farmers benefited is about 31.94 lakh during the said period. The continuation of the scheme as WDC-PMKSY 2.0 has been approved by Government on 15 December, 2021. Similarly, under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, during FY 2022-23 and FY2023-24 (till 1st Qtr.), approximately 0.75 lakh water harvesting structures have been created / rejuvenated. An additional area of about 0.57 lakh hectare has been brought under protective irrigation. The number of farmers benefited is about 4.30 lakh during the said period.
