

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 121

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 2023

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AMONG FARMERS

* 121. CH. MEHBOOB ALI KAISER:

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

- (a) the details of schemes being implemented by the Government to promote skill development among farmers in agriculture and allied sectors;
- (b) the amount of funds earmarked and spent under the said schemes during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the details of initiatives proposed by the Government to increase capacity building of farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 121 FOR 12.12.2023 REGARDING SKILL DEVELOPMENT AMONG FARMERS:

(a) to (c): The Government has initiated and is implementing the following schemes aimed to promote skill development and capacity building among farmers in the agriculture and allied sectors:

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms' popularly known as Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) is implemented across the country. The scheme promotes decentralized farmer-friendly Extension system in the country with an objective to support State Government's efforts to revitalize the extension system and making available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied areas to farmers. During the last 3 years from 2020-21 to 2022-23 and current year 2023-24 (upto November, 2023) 48.07 lakh farmers availed training benefits under ATMA.

The Government is implementing skill development programmes through Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in different States of the Country with mandate of technology assessment and demonstration for its use and capacity building. As part of its activities, the KVKs impart training to the farmers, farm women and rural youth on different aspects of agriculture and allied sectors for their capacity building. The KVKs trained 73.75 lakh farmers, farm women and rural youth during last three years and current year.

The Government has launched National Skill Development Mission under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in July 2015, under which the DA&FW has been operationalising skill training courses for rural youth and farmers as per the approved Qualification Packs developed by Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) in the areas of agriculture and allied sectors through the National Training Institutes (NTIs), State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). MSDE, under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 9.72 lakh candidates have been trained/oriented under Agriculture and allied sector as on 31.10.2023.

The Government has launched Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) in 2015 with the objective to impart short term skill training (7 days duration inclusive of 1 day for local travel) to rural youths and farmers in agriculture and allied areas for upgradation of their knowledge and skills and promote wage/self employment in rural areas. The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) is implementing STRY across the country through State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIs), ATMA and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Horticulture is an approved component under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for different horticulture crops. More than 3.60 lakh farmers have been trained in these centres. There is provision in the Operational Guidelines of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) for creating awareness, organizing training programs, exposure visits etc. to the farmers by the states.

Also under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM), a component namely 'Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstration' is aimed for skill development programme in various fields of agriculture mechanisation. During 2020-21 to 2023-24 (Upto November, 2023), 52,080 trainees have been trained on various aspects of agricultural mechanisation which has helped them in improving their skill levels. The Government has also recently approved Central Sector Scheme for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with an outlay of Rs. 1261 Crores. The scheme aims to provide trainings and drones to 15000 selected Women SHGs for providing rental services to farmers for agriculture purpose (application of fertilizers and pesticides).

The Capacity building component of the PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) envisages providing 24 Hours/ 3 Days, Food Processing Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) Training for, all applicants viz. individuals and Groups (Self Help Groups / Farmers Producer Organizations/ Cooperatives). Under the PMFME Scheme, a total of 54,767 beneficiaries have been trained till 30th November 2023.

Under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), there is provision for training SHGs and Farmers on drone

applications, Natural Farming, Agro Ecological Practices, Organic Farming, Millets, Value chain Development, Micro irrigation, livestock management, fisheries and Scientific collection of Non-Timber Forest Produce etc. A total of 1,94,057 Community Resource Persons were trained on the above activities under the programme.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, imparted training to 12,500 Aquaculture Farmers & Marine Capture Fishermen.

The amount of funds earmarked, spent and farmers trained under ATMA and Skill trainings by DA&FW during 2020-21 to 2023-24 are given at Annexure-I.

Annexure-I

The amount of funds earmarked, spent and farmers trained under ATMA and Skill trainings by DA&FW during 2020-21 to 2023-24.

Year	Funds Earmarked (Rs. in Crores)	Funds Spent (Rs. in Crores)	Farmers trained (Nos.)
2020-21	845.07	632.67	1398571
2021-22	882.74	555.36	1372995
2022-23	732.56	478.05	1443795
2023-24*	611.23	367.62	635677
TOTAL	3071.60	2033.70	4851038

*Upto November, 2023
