

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2972
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010
PRECISION FARMING
Balram Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether precision farming technology is profitable for floriculture crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has imparted training to farmers regarding different precision farming related technologies and organised awareness camp in this regard in the country including rural and drought affected areas of Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the response received so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The precision farming technology is quite profitable in floriculture sector especially under protected cultivation. Precision farming enables increased productivity, improved quality produce and requires minimum use of inputs like water, fertilizers, sunlight etc. Besides quality of the produce, yield of flowers under protected cultivation is enhanced 2-3 times as compared to conventional method of cultivation.

(c) & (d): For the development of regionally differentiated technologies, Government of India has established 22 Precision Farming Development Centres (PFDCs) in the country including Andhra Pradesh. These PFDCs are working on various plasticulture applications and precision farming practices and providing technical support to the respective State Governments. These PFDCs are also working with farmers and creating awareness among them about latest cultivation practices through training & awareness programmes and camps.

In Andhra Pradesh, PFDC is situated in Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), Hyderabad. These PFDCs are organizing the awareness programmes and imparting trainings to farmers, Government officials and interested entrepreneurs on different aspects of precision farming technologies in the country including rural and drought affected areas of Andhra Pradesh.

The details of training and awareness programmes conducted by 22 PFDCs during the last 5 years in the country including Andhra Pradesh for creating awareness about modern cultivation practices are as under:

Training & Awareness Programmes (Country)

Year	No. of training programmes	No. of participants awareness	No. of mass Camps	No. of participants
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2005-06	302	10181	28	26917
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2006-07	448	14423	34	16769
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2007-08	203	6040	28	3547
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2008-09	491	15832	40	6894
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2009-10 345 10247 30 2732

(upto Dec.2009)

Total 1789 56723 160 56859

Training & Awareness Programmes (Andhra Pradesh)

Year	No. of training programmes	No. of participants	No. of mass awareness Camps	No. of participants
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2005-06	10	372	0	0
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2006-07	30	936	0	0
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2007-08	15	444	0	0
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2008-09	31	820	1	86
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2009-10	9	211	1	53
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(upto Dec.2009)

Total 95 2783 2 139

Out of the 97 training and awareness programmes organized by the PFDC, Hyderabad 37 programmes were in drought affected areas.

(e): These training and awareness programmes have been received very well by the farmers. Many of them have been benefitted economically due to adoption of protected cultivation and micro irrigation.