

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3136

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010

USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

Dashmunsi Deepa ;Kaswan Shri Ram Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the small and marginal farmers have not fully succeeded in reaping the benefits arising out of use of modern agriculture technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the States/areas/sectors where the benefits could not be percolated;
- (c) whether the Government has identified the areas using obsolete technology;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other Agricultural Institutes/Universities propose to rejuvenate agriculture extension schemes for proper dissemination of information/ knowledge, especially to the small and marginal farmers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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): No, Madam. Most of the Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes either have preferential norms of assistance for small & marginal farmers or emphasize on certain percentage of allocation to be spent on them or earmark resources based on number of small & marginal farmers. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" (ATMA) also propagates only economically viable and proven technologies since it aims to help resource poor families.

(b): Not applicable.

(c): Suitability of a technology depends upon various factors. As such a technology old/ obsolete for one area can be suitable for other areas. The Strategic Research & Extension Plan (SREP) formulated under the scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" and developed using participatory rural appraisal technique involving all stakeholders including farmers contains detailed analysis of existing farming systems in the district and the technological interventions required for all agro-ecological situations within a district. The matching training, extension and input support on technologies relevant to a particular area is then provided through various on-going schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

(d): Not applicable.

(e): Yes, Madam.

(f): The main extension system to promote modern agricultural technology is operated by the State Governments. At the Centre, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is actively involved in assessment, refinement and demonstration of improved agricultural technologies/ products in addition to conducting training of farmers and extension personnel through its network of 570 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country. In order to strengthen the activities of KVKs during 11th Plan, provisions have been made to provide additional facilities including e-linkage, soil & water testing, plant health diagnostics & minimal agro-processing, in addition to demonstration units on rainwater harvesting structure with micro-irrigation facilities. The Council has also upgraded 8 Zonal Coordinating Units at the level of Zonal Project Directorates for effective coordination & monitoring of KVKs.

For effective dissemination of information to farmers and to provide requisite training and extension support to the farmers and extension functionaries, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has also taken up several initiatives which include "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" (ATMA Programme); Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension and instant information dissemination through Kisan Call Centres (KCC). A proposal to rejuvenate the ATMA programme during 11th Plan in terms of providing committed specialist and functionary support; improved connectivity and mobility at various levels and strengthening the mechanism for information dissemination at village level through 'Farmer Friend' is under active consideration.