

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1944
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010
NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY MISSION
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched the National Food Security Mission for increasing the production of foodgrains, rice, wheat, pulses etc. during the current Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and
- (c) the physical and financial achievements of the scheme under various heads?

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. In view of the resolution adopted by the National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29-05-2007, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'National Food Security Mission (NFSM)' has been launched from Rabi, 2007-08 with three major components viz. NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses.

National Food Security Mission (NFSM) aims to obtain an additional production of 20 million tonnes i.e. 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses, respectively by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan (2011-12). The outlay for the eleventh five year plan is Rs. 4882.48 Crores. Under NFSM, an area of about 13 million hectares of wheat, 20 million hectares of rice and nearly 22 million hectares under pulses is targeted. There is a paradigm shift to focus on districts with higher yield potential with large yield gaps and whose productivity is below the state average. The main strategy is to enhance the reach of improved technologies like use of high yielding variety seeds, hybrids; resource conservation technologies such as Zero tillage, Rotavators, System of Rice Intensification; use of improved farm machineries, Integrated Pest Management; Integrated Nutrient Management; water conservation devices etc. Imparting knowledge regarding the best agricultural practices through Farmers Field Schools and demonstrations is also an integral part of the Mission. Timely availability of funds is assured through direct transfer to the designated Autonomous Agencies at the State and the District levels through a non treasury route. In order to augment the administrative capacity, dedicated manpower in the form of Project Management Teams is provided for sustaining the focus and attention of the National, State and District Implementing agencies on the Mission activities. Districts are provided with 10 % of the mission funds for taking up local initiatives with the help of Panchayat Raj Institutions to supplement the other programs as per the felt needs of the area. Pilot projects have also been provided to promote innovations in program design and implementation. Cash awards are planned at the State and the National Levels for recognizing good performance by the districts based on pre fixed objective parameters. Efficient monitoring mechanisms such as National Level Monitoring Teams, video- conferences and Information and Communication Technology based mechanisms are in place. Vigorous Publicity campaign through print and mass media, advertisements relevant to different stages of the crop growth is made an integral part of the Mission activities.

Presently, NFSM is under implementation in 312 districts of 17 states in the country. Of these, 136 districts are covered under NFSM -Rice, 141 under NFSM-Wheat and 171 under NFSM-Pulses. From the year 2010-11, the States of Assam with 5 new districts and Jharkhand with 10 new districts would also be included making the total number of districts covered under NFSM to 327.

(c): So far, improved farm practices including System of Rice Intensification, Hybrid Seed have been encouraged through 2.87 lakh demonstrations of rice and wheat. Nearly 84.03 lakh quintals of high yielding varieties of rice, wheat and pulses and hybrid seeds of rice have been distributed. 56.14 lakh hectares of area has been treated with soil ameliorants (gypsum/ lime/micro-nutrients) to restore soil fertility. 21.90 lakh hectares of farm land has been treated under Integrated Pests Management (IPM). 10.42 lakh improved farm machineries/water saving devices have been distributed. Capacity building of farmers through arranging 27,834 farmers field schools at the farm level is ensured.

As regards financial achievements under NFSM, the year-wise and component-wise funds released is as under:

(Rupees in Crore)
Year NFSM-Rice NFSM-Wheat NFSM-Pulses Publicity

2007-08 58.97 208.19 105.59 25.98

2008-09 338.64 232.23 287.29 23.24

2009-10 290.98 283.31 350.48 15.78