

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3958

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010

DRYLAND FARMING

Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes/ has launched any programme for dryland farming in the arid and semi arid regions of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the allocation made by the Union Government to various States for the promotion of dryland farming during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) the total area brought under dryland farming in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (e) the incentives given to the farmers for dryland farming and the success achieved in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): For the promotion of rainfed / dryland farming, various watershed programmes are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development through an integrated watershed management approach. Special emphasis on rainfed/dryland areas has also been given in all other major programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture. The details of the programmes are:

(A) Watershed Programmes

(I) Ministry of Agriculture

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA)
2. Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)
3. Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

(II). Ministry of Rural Development

Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP): Integration and modification of the schemes of Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP).

(B) Besides, programmes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Micro Irrigation (MI), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) also accord special focus to rainfed areas for improving the livelihood security and agricultural productivity.

Research Projects on dryland agriculture are also being implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA).

(c) & (d): The State wise allocation / expenditures made under various watershed programmes during the last three years (2007-08 to 2009-10) is given at Annexure I. The area coverage during this period is given at Annexure II.

(e): In the watershed programmes, assistance is provided to the farmers for natural resource management related activities. Besides, in most of the other agriculture development programmes, incentives are provided to farmers in terms of subsidy for various agricultural inputs/operations. Training support is also provided to the farmers on various technologies concerning dryland / rainfed farming under the aforesaid programmes.