

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4057

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010

FARMERS FIELD SCHOOLS

Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is organising Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) for training of farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount allocated for such training schools, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any comprehensive study regarding the impact made by Farmers` Field Schools, and the promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM); and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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) Yes Madam.

(b): The Government is organising Farmer Field Schools (FFS)/ Farm Schools (FS) under various ongoing schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. While the overall aim of the FFSs /FSs is to provide on – field trainings to the farmers, each scheme has a specific objective for organizing such schools. The FFSs under National Food Security Mission aim at providing first hand information to the farmers to enable them to adopt the improved crop production in selected crops viz. Rice, Wheat & Pulses. The Farm Schools under the scheme 'Support to States for Extension Reforms' (ATMA Programme) where the 'trainer' is also a farmer, focus on Integrated Crop Management which includes Seed Treatment, Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Nutrient Management. The objective for organizing FFS under the scheme 'Strengthening & Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India' is to train the farmers regarding the latest IPM technologies to enable them to take decisions in pest management operations. The FFS under Mini Mission II of Technology Mission on Cotton & Jute provide season long training to farmers for the complete cropping cycle.

The details of amount allocated and number of such FFSs / FSs (State wise) under aforesaid schemes for 2009-10 is given at Annexure I

(c) & (d) Yes Madam. The impact of FFSs /FSs has been studied as a part of evaluation of various schemes in totality. The impact assessment of interventions under the scheme 'Support to States for Extension reforms' revealed that Farm School is an important Farmer-to-Farmer extension tool under ATMA Model for dissemination of new learnings & technologies in a participatory mode. However, no separate input has been provided for INM/IPM under impact assessment of ATMA. Under Technology Mission on Cotton & Jute, no such comprehensive study regarding impact of FFS, INM etc. has so far been conducted. The task for evaluation of Mini Mission I & Mini Mission II of Technology Mission on Cotton has, however, been out- sourced to Agriculture Finance Corporation Ltd. which will also study the impact of FFS, INM and IPM. The impact on IPM under the scheme 'Strengthening & Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India' has been observed through the following indicators:

Crop yield increased from 6.72 to 40.14% in Rice and 22.7 to 26.63% in cotton in IPM fields compared to non-IPM fields.

Vegetable crop yield has increased from 5.9% to 25% as compared to Non-IPM plots. Net gain in income of the farmers is from Rs.6200 to Rs.22,500 per ha by adopting IPM in vegetables.

Chemical pesticide sprays were reduced to the extent of 50-100% in rice and 29.96 to 50.5% in cotton.

Use of bio-pesticides /neem based pesticides increased from 123 MT during 1994-95 to 1366 MT during 2006-07.

Over all consumption of chemical pesticide in the country reduced from 75,033 MT (Tech. Grade) during 1990-91 to 43,860 MT (T.G.) during 2008-09