

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1593  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010  
DEVELOPMENT OF RAINFED AREAS  
Lal Shri Kirodi ;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the rainfed areas identified for their sustainable development in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether production and productivity in such areas is low in comparison to the irrigated areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of funds earmarked for the development of rainfed areas under the 11th Five Year Plan;and
- (e) the corrective measures being taken to increase the production and productivity in such areas by developing irrigation and water harvesting system?

**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): The net sown area in the country is about 140.86 million ha. of which 62.28 million ha. area is covered under irrigation and the remaining 78.57 million ha. is rainfed. The state-wise details are annexed.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. There is a difference in rate of productivity of crops under rainfed and irrigated conditions. The productivity of rainfed area is about 1 tonne/ ha which is much less than the irrigated areas. The rainfed areas contribute to about 40% of the food production of the country. Yield of principal crops under irrigated and un-irrigated conditions, is as under:

Yield in Kg. per ha.

Crop	Irrigated	Un-irrigated (Rainfed)
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Rice	1880.3	1220.4
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Sorghum	1242.6	606.9
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Pearl Millet	1170.2	596.2
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Maize	2040.5	1339.2
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Ragi 1966.8 995.9

Wheat 2068.1 1100.1

Barley 1836.6 1127.2

Gram 830.0 548.5

Groundnut 1244.2 844.4

Sugarcane 70687.5 43161.2

Rapeseed & Mustard 893.6 573.2

(d) & (e): Ministry of Agriculture under the Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) allocates approximately Rs. 500 crores annually for the Programmes of Natural Resource Management for development of rainfed and degraded areas based on watershed approach as per Annual Work Plan proposed by the States. Department of Land Resources has a provision of Rs. 15,359 crores for the XI Plan for watershed management. Government of India has set up a National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to address various problems of farming in the rainfed areas and to ensure a coordinated strategy for development of rainfed areas. For the XI Five Year Plan, Rs. 123 crores has been earmarked for this purpose.

Government of India has accorded highest priority to the holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas through integrated watershed development approach. More thrust is given for in-situ moisture conservation and rain water harvesting under watershed interventions. The following major schemes are being implemented by Government to enhance soil and water conservation.

#### Ministry of Agriculture

- (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR)
- (ii) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)
- (iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

#### Ministry of Rural Development

- (iv) Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various programmes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, Micro Irrigation, National Horticulture Mission with a special focus on rainfed areas for improving the production and productivity