

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3343
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN NIAM AND USAID
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM) has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for technical assistance in the fields of strengthening of agricultural marketing system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a team of experts from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is likely to visit India to impart training as part of the MoU;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the benefits likely to accrue from the exchange programmes between the NIAM and the USAID?

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) to (e): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM) & the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on 11th July, 2006 for a period of three years for technical assistance in the fields of strengthening of agricultural marketing system. The overall objective of the MoU was for further collaboration, cooperation and technical assistance in the areas of mutual benefit and interest relating to agricultural marketing. The goals of this MoU were also to establish collaboration, co-operation between NIAM and USAID to access relevant US Government agencies, universities and related institutions in order to provide technical assistance to NIAM for capacity building and manpower development in training, research, consultancy and education.

Four teams of experts have visited India several times both before and during the period, 2005 to 2009. These teams have given technical assistance and training in the areas of grades and standards, food safety and quality issues, market information, marketing extension and terminal markets.

The stakeholders of the agricultural marketing system of the project States and NIAM have been benefited by the project. About 7640 farmers of Himachal Pradesh have been trained under the the project in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in respect of two commodities – Apple and Tomato. The State of Karnataka adopted a strategy of intensive focus by concentrating on 140 farmers, who were trained in GAP in respect of two commodities such as mango and grapes. The faculties of NIAM got exposure to the best International practices in respect of the major components of agricultural marketing.