

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1527

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011

SETTING UP OF VEGETABLE CLUSTERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to involve private players in setting up of vegetable clusters in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action plan envisaged to bridge the gap between demand and supply for the above commodities;
- (d) whether the project is funded by the Union Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government is considering to provide subsidised fertilizers to the farmers to minimise their crop loss; and (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Government has launched a new programme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) during 2011-12 under the aegis of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The Scheme is being implemented in one city each of 29 States having a population of one million and above, except seven States in the North East (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) and Goa, in which case urban clusters of less than one million or capital city has been selected. Initially, the programme will be implemented for a period of one year (2011-12).

Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC) a Society sponsored by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been involved in facilitating formation of farmer's groups/associations in the identified clusters, linking them with financial institutions and aggregators. State Government may involve other agencies for the above purpose and providing market linkages in these clusters.

(c): The main objective of the Scheme are:

- (i) Addressing all concerns related to both the demand and supply sides of the vegetable sector in selected cities.
- (ii) Enhancing vegetable production, improve nutritional security and income support to vegetable farmers.
- (iii) Encouraging establishment of an efficient supply chain thereby leading to employment opportunities and incomes for intermediate service providers, and safe, good quality, fresh as well as processed agri produce at competitive price for the urban consumers.
- (iv) Promote, developing and disseminating technologies for enhancing production and productivity of vegetables in peri-urban areas of major cities.
- (v) Assisting States in addressing the entire value chain, right from the stage of pre-production to the consumers table through appropriate interventions.
- (vi) Creating employment generation opportunities for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth.

To achieve above objectives, the scheme will adopt the following strategies:

Conduct baseline survey to assess the extent vegetable supply chain to city selected, identify bottlenecks and vegetable growing clusters, existing as well as potential.

Organize vegetable growers into Farmers Association/Groups.

Coordinate with public sector agencies/Municipal Corporations for making land available for cultivation, and for Farmers markets to ensure direct/transparent transaction of produce.

Provide support to farmers/farmers associations/cooperatives/private sector for seed/seedling production, vegetable cultivation, INM/IPM, organic farming, GAP, capacity building etc.

Identify/select Aggregators and enable tie-up with Farmers Associations/Groups.

Coordinate with ICAR/SAUs to provide improved varieties of vegetable seeds/seedlings and to introduce innovative technologies as required.

Addressing issues in the credit supply chain with support from NABARD.

Measures for production and productivity enhancement by adopting improved cultivars, production technologies using precision farming techniques, protected cultivation, micro irrigation etc.

Primary processing, sorting, grading, washing, packaging and value addition clusters.

Logistics from farm to market including Post Harvest Management, Storage and Transport infrastructure, aggregators for suitable tie-up in the supply chain.

Establishment of Farmer market including Electronic platform for transparent transactions.

Support to urban local bodies to promote Controlled Atmosphere (CA), static/mobile kiosks etc.

(d) & (e): The project is funded by the Union Government under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) at an outlay of Rs. 300.00 crore for the year 2011-12.

(f) & (g): Government, in order to make good quality of fertilizers available at affordable price to the farmers is already providing concession/subsidy on certain varieties of fertilizers, which are used in various agriculture crops including vegetables.