

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1029

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012

SMALL FARM MANAGEMENT

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an urgent need to introduce modern scientific method and technology in agricultural practices, particularly in small farm management to revitalise the agriculture sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction;
- (c) whether the Government had identified major the challenges in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage small farm management?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various schemes for providing improved and modern agricultural technologies to farmers including small farmers. These interventions include supply of seeds and quality planting materials, agriculture mechanization, storage and post harvest management, precision farming, conservation agriculture and watershed development, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, training and skill development in agricultural operations etc. These technological interventions are provided through the following major schemes :

- 1) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY);
- 2) National Food Security Mission(NFSM);
- 3) National Horticulture Mission (NHM);
- 4) Macro Management of Agriculture(MMA);
- 5) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand(TMNE);
- 6) Micro Irrigation Mission (MI);
- 7) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM);
- 8) Integrated Nutrient Management (INM);
- 9) Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

Apart from enhancing livelihood support to the farmers, these interventions help in increasing productivity of farms and better economic returns.

(c) & (d): Continuous fragmentation of operational land holding size, ensuing threat of climate change, concerns over natural resources conservation and preservation of bio diversity are some of the major challenges for revitalizing country's agriculture.

While frontier science and adoption of appropriate technology has been helping increase of food grain production in the country, traditional agriculture with its self regenerative nature and focus on basic needs of the villages with food, fodder, manure, fuel, fibre, tool/implements with eco-friendliness and protection of bio-diversity are finding new roles in nation's vision for self sufficiency in food, nutritional and livelihood security.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been continuously pursuing adaptive and anticipatory research to address these major challenges through various projects like National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), All India Co-ordinated Research Projects (AICRP), National Agriculture Innovation Project (NAIP) etc.

(e): Ministry of Agriculture has been taking active steps to encourage small farm management and making them viable through various programmes and schemes. Major initiatives under these programmatic interventions are as under:

- 1) Promoting suitable technologies relating to improved seeds, conservation of natural resources, improved water use efficiency, integrated nutrient and pest management etc.;
- 2) Integration of District Agriculture Development Plans (DAP) with project proposals to meet local agro climatic situations and land-

cropping patterns;

3) Adoption of cluster approach for various crop development programmes to achieve greater reach of technologies and services to small and marginal farmers;

4) Compensating adverse economies of scale by organizing small farmers into groups for availing benefits of quality inputs, farm mechanization, market access etc.;

5) Provisioning of Venture Capital assistance to small farm enterprises through Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC);

6) Improved risk management system through strengthening existing agricultural insurance mechanisms and development & promotion of climate resilient technologies;

7) Convergence with other Rural Development schemes like MNREGA for focusing on development of infrastructure and irrigation facilities in the rural areas especially for benefiting small and marginal farmers; and

8) Fostering innovations and knowledge management to evolve better technologies and approaches while addressing constraints of small scale farming.