

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:871

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012

TRAINING TO MARGINAL AND MEDIUM LEVEL FARMERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide guidance/training to the marginal and medium level farmers for formation of companies collectively in order to ensure reasonable prices to farmers for their produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be formulated?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (c): During 2011-12, the Government launched two sub-schemes under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) viz. (i) Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters and (ii) Pulses Production Programme. Under these sub-schemes provision has also been made for mobilizing farmers into Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Since 2011-12, a total of 2.80 lakh farmers have been mobilized into informal groups called Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs). About 50 FIGs come together to form an FPO. Till now, 63 FPOs have been registered. Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, working under the aegis of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, has been engaged for facilitating this process. As a part of organizing farmers, SFAC provides inputs for capacity building and training to the members of the FIGs. Till date, 12,273 farmers have been trained and around 5100 demonstrations have been conducted during Kharif 2012.