

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2983

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade grass root innovations in agricultural practices and techniques to ensuring its access to the farmers taking into account the concerns raised by the Prime Minister during the Golden Jubilee Convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to analyse the role of Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) to make them more effective in promoting and disseminating agricultural technology at grass root/ground level;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the activities undertaken by the ATMA across the country; and

(e) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the latest farm technology reaches the farmers and to encourage the participation of the private sector in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) In order to utilize the innovative experience of farmers for development of appropriate technologies, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has initiated the task of documenting the profile of farm innovators along with brief of their innovations. In this regard, the publications containing the farm innovations by different farmers have been brought out.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The role of ATMA was analyzed to make it more effective in promoting and disseminating agricultural technologies at ground level through consultation with States and various other stake-holders and by conducting third party evaluation. On the basis of these, the ATMA scheme was modified in 2010. Dedicated manpower at District and Block level and Farmer Friend at the village level have been provided under the Schemes.

As regards activities undertaken, during the last 3 years, capacity development of 244852 extension personnel was taken up through training programmes on various technologies including extension methodologies. Farmers capacity development was attempted through training (4478261 man days), exposure visits (2479460 man days), 971180 demonstrations and 31027 extension activities.

Besides, 45706 farm schools were organized to facilitate farmer to farmer spread of technologies. Farmers were further facilitated to form 79315 commodity groups to facilitate group approach to extension.

(e) All the ongoing extension schemes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation are proposed to be brought under the National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology during XII Plan. The National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology proposed to focus on disseminating timely information and appropriate technology through the structure of ATMA and Block Technology Teams. Restructuring and strengthening of agricultural extension machinery is proposed to be a judicious mix of extensive physical outreach of personnel, enhancement in quality through domain experts and regular capacity building, interactive methods of information dissemination, Public Private Partnership and pervasive and innovative use of ICT/Mass Media.