

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3283  
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015  
NEW TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE  
Raajhaa Shri Anwhar

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

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to introduce new technology and innovations in Indian agriculture systems across the country in accordance with the developments in the fields of science, health, industry etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the innovations are likely to be implemented in agriculture sector?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. National Agriculture Research System which comprises National Institutes, National Bureaux, Central Research Institutes, Project Directorates, National Research Centres, All India Coordinated Research Projects along with State Agriculture Universities develop new technologies and innovations in Indian Agriculture. Some such initiative have taken in the private sector as well. Krishi Vigyan Kendras carry out further refinement and re-validation based on the local needs. These technologies are taken to the farmers through extension mechanism whose main fulcrum is institution of ATMA (Agriculture Technology Management Agency).

ICT enabled multi delivery channels such as Internet, Govt. offices, Kisan Call Centre (KCC), Agri Clinics, Common Service Centres and mobile based services are also being used for taking these innovations & technologies to farmers as per details given at Annexure-I.

Annexure – I

1. National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A)

Twelve cluster of services (containing nearly 80 components) are being developed under the scheme for providing information on various agricultural related activities such as Information on Pesticides; Fertilizers and Seeds; Soil Health; Information on Crops; Farmer Machinery; Training and Good Agriculture Practices; Weather advisors; Information on prices; arrivals, procurement points and providing interaction platform; Electronic Certification for import; Information on marketing infrastructure; Monitoring implementation/evaluation of the schemes and programmes; Information on fishery inputs; Information on irrigation infrastructure; Drought relief and Management, Livestock Management. Besides, NeGP-A, AGRISNET Scheme also was used to provide support for hardware & software as per local needs.

2. m-Kisan Portal

The portal is being used for disseminating information on various agricultural activities, giving topical and seasonal advisories and providing services through SMSs to farmers in their local language. The farmers registered for receiving SMS messages have been grouped based on the State, District, Block and Crops/Activities selected by the respective farmers. Nearly 90 lakh farmer are registered on m-Kisan Portal.

Since its inception in July, 2013 till date, more than 515 crore SMSs have been sent to farmers by all Agencies/Organizations/Departments in Agriculture and allied sectors down to the Block level through the country. Besides this, farmers can get access to some internet based data using USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data) and Pull SMS which work even on basic phone without internet.

3. Kisan Call Centre (KCC)

The KCC aims to provide information to the farming community through Toll Free telephone Line (Tel. No. 1800-180-1551). Call Centre facilities have been extended to the farmers through Call Centres located in different States so as to enable the farmers to get information in their own language. New technological features such as Voice Media Gateway, Dedicated Internet Band Width, 100% Call Recording, Call Barging Facility, Provision of Voice Mail during call waiting period and SMS to farmers (conveying gist of advisories given) have increased number of calls flowing into KCC in the last 16 months. More than 190 lakh calls have been received by KCC since its inception in 2004.

4. Krishi Doot

Krishi Doot is an ICT based aggregation and transaction platform for agri community launched jointly by the Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (SFAC) and RML Information Services Pvt. Ltd. (RML). Under this programme, over 70,000 selected Farmer Producer Organization (FPO)/Farmers Interest Groups (FIG) members were given RML's Mobile Based agri information services. The Krishi Doot Programme has delivered more than 8 crore SMS messages in regional languages to the beneficiaries.

5. Technology Innovations through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)

Indian Council of Agriculture Research has established a network of 641 KVKs District-wise in the country to assess and demonstrate the new agricultural technologies and farm practices on farmer's field. The KVKs also organize training programmes for improving

knowledge of farmers on modern agricultural technologies. During the current year, KVKs have conducted 1.23 lakh On-farm trials and Frontline demonstrations on various crops and allied enterprises to agriculture. The KVKs also produced 3.44 lakh quintal seeds and 203.36 lakh good quality planting materials of improved varieties of various crops, besides 1.27 lakh quintal bio-products and 136.80 lakh improved livestock strains and fingerlings for availability to farmers.