

participation of 21.71 lakh farmers and 2.12 extension personnel, out of which 128 on-farm trials, 4138 frontline demonstrations, training programmes for 2.05 lakh farmers and 27,367 extension personnel were organized in Tamil Nadu. Also the KVKs in Tamil Nadu produced 5106 q of seeds and 76.00 lakh planting material for making them available to the farmers.

(c) and (d) ICAR Regional Committee No. VIII comprising the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Union Territory of Pondicherry and Lakshdweep Islands in its Meeting at Chennai in December, 2005 with participation of Senior Officials of ICAR, SAUs and State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, made 32 recommendations for agricultural development in Tamil Nadu on which follow up action has been initiated. These relate to audit on impact of crop varieties, breeder seed production, creating farmer's awareness for use of chemicals to control insect pests, encourage cultivation of short duration intrahirsutum cotton hybrids like DHH 11 in new areas, survey and management of important diseases and weeds, shipment protocols for fruits and vegetables, examination of better alternatives to banana cultivation, mass production of disease free planting material of banana through tissue culture, popularization of snow ball tender coconut technology, arid fruit farming, watershed development, integrated nutrient management, quality control of biofertilizers and biocontrol agents, starting of an AICRP on Agro-forestry, removal of restriction on growing of Sandal wood trees, water harvesting and utilization, prototype for coconut harvester and coconut sprayer, increasing productivity and the reproductive efficiency of cattles, fish production and quarantine mechanism for ornamental fishes, human resource development and transfer of technology.

Increase in rural landless families

1194. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of rural landless families have increased from 35 per cent between 1987 and 1988 to 55 per cent between 2003 and 2005;

(b) if so, whether any study has been done in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for the increase in the number of rural landless families and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) According to the surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the proportion of rural landless households has decreased from 8.1 percent of the total households (as on 30.6.1991) to 6.4 per cent (as on 30.6.2002).

Coverage under crop insurance scheme

1195. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmer's families brought under crop insurance scheme in different States of the country;

(b) the percentage of coverage by crop insurance scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the extension of benefits contemplated by Government for the poor and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A statement indicating State-wise number and percentage of farmers covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) in 2005-06 is annexed as per statement. (See below).

(c) Out of total coverage of 1.66 crore farmers under NAIS in 2005-06, about 0.99 crore are small and marginal farmers.

Statement

Percentage of farmers covered under National Agricultural Insurance scheme in 2005-06

Sl. No.	State/UT	Farmers Covered under NAIS during 2005-06* (khari 2005 & Rabi 2005-06)	No. of Farmers (as per Agriculture Statistics at a glance 2005, MoA)	Percentage of Farmers Covered under NAIS
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2247535	6033900	37.25
2.	Assam	22535	2504000	0.90
3.	Bihar	409946	7080400	5.79