

Ministry of Agriculture is closely monitoring monsoon situation alongwith India Meteorological Department (IMD) and State Governments. Decisions have been taken for introduction of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of seed subsidy, up-scaling the central sector scheme on feed and fodder, waiver of import duty on oil cakes, release of interim assistance under calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), release of funds under NRDWP and Integrated Watershed Management Programme etc. as measures to mitigate the effects of rainfall deficiency.

Schemes for increasing production of rice, maize, pulses and oilseeds in Assam

*291. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes implemented for increasing production of rice, maize, pulses and oilseeds in Assam during the last three years;
- (b) the number of villages in the State selected for implementation of the schemes, year-wise and the criteria of selection thereof;
- (c) the targeted production and actual production as a result of the schemes during the last three years; and
- (d) the further steps proposed to be taken to increase their production?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) For enhancing the production of rice, maize, pulses and oilseeds, several crop development programmes such as National Food Security Mission-Rice (NFSM-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Pulses and Oilseeds under Macro Management of Agriculture scheme have been implemented in Assam during the last three years. In addition, Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)-a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses) have also been implemented in the State from 2010-11 onwards. Besides, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has also been implemented in Assam during the last three years.

(b) The details of districts covered under each of the above crop development programmes are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Schemes	Crop(s) Covered	Number and Name of Districts covered	Year from which districts are covered
1	2	3	4	5
1.	National Food Security Mission-Rice	Rice	13 districts namely Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Darrang,	2007-08

1	2	3	4	5
			Dhemaji, Goalpara, Karbi-Anglong, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Nagaon and Tinsukia.	
2.	National Food Security Mission-Pulses	Pulses	10 districts namely Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, Jorhat, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, Sonitpur, Nagaon and Udalgiri	2010-11
3.	Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India-a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	Rice Based Cropping Systems.	Districts which are not covered under NFSM-Rice	2010-11
4.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice) under Macro Management of Agriculture	Rice	Districts which are not covered under NFSM-Rice	2008-09
5.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Pulses and Oilseeds under Macro Management of Agriculture	Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize	All Districts. All districts for Oilseeds and Maize. However, for Pulses all districts except those covered under NFSM-Pulses.	2008-09 2010-11
6.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	All Crops	All Districts	2007-08

Districts for implementation of National Food Security Mission-Rice (NFSM-Rice) were identified based on their potential for productivity enhancement. These districts have more than 50,000 ha area under rice cultivation but their productivity is less than the average productivity in the State. Districts for implementation of NFSM-Pulses were selected based on area under pulses cultivation, potential for expansion through inter-cropping and utilization of rice fallow land. All districts not covered under NFSM-Rice were covered under BGREI and ICDP-Rice. All the villages in

the identified districts for the specified crops are included under the programme(s) and scheme(s) stated above.

(c) The target fixed for production for rice, maize, pulses and oilseeds in Assam during last three years (2009-10 to 2011-12) *vis-a-vis* actual production is as under:

(Lakh Tonnes)

Crop	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Rice	36.40	43.36	39.00	47.37	41.00	40.09
Maize	0.15	0.14	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.13
Pulses	0.66	0.65	0.41	0.70	0.63	1.08
Oilseeds*	0.00	1.45	0.00	1.54	0.00	1.48

*Since area under oilseeds is very meager in Assam, no specific targets were fixed.

(d) On-going schemes and programmes for enhancement of crop production would continue to be implemented through financial support and close monitoring. Emphasis is given on taking up site specific and innovative promotional work under these programmes to meet the requirement of the farmers for increasing their crop production.

Damage to soil health due to use of chemical fertilizers

*292. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of isolated studies have confirmed that continuous use of chemical fertilizers has severely damaged soil health in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating any comprehensive soil survey to ascertain the present status of soil health; and

(c) whether Government would make appropriate investments to support a holistic ecological fertilising programme and work out a master plan to move away from the dependence on chemical fertilizers to ensure food security in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Studies have indicated that indiscriminate and imbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over the years has resulted in nutrient deficiencies and deterioration of soil health in some parts of the country, particularly in the intensively cultivated areas of the Indo-Gangetic plains.