

Drought Management, 2016 (Drought Manual), the State Government is required to declare drought through a notification for Kharif, not later than 30th October and for Rabi, not later than 31st March. The validity of such drought notification is not more than 6 months. The Government of India does not intend to amend the Drought Manual. However, relaxation may be given in case of special circumstances. During June, 2018, the State Government of Rajasthan requested for extension of drought declaration beyond the validity period of 6 months. The Government of India considered the request of the State Government of Rajasthan and granted extension of drought declaration period beyond 6 months upto 15.07.2018, subject to compliance of SDRF/NDRF norms.

Training to farmers for scientific method of farming

‡2724. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken steps to promote agriculture in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has given training to farmers for scientific methods of agriculture; and
- (c) whether farmers have been given information in this regard, if so, the names of districts in which this programme is being implemented, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Agriculture being as a State subject, the State Governments are primarily responsible for the growth and development of agriculture sector and developing perspective plans for their respective States and ensuring effective implementation of the programmes/schemes. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Schemes/Programmes.

The Department has been implementing various schemes for betterment of agriculture sector, viz Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme; Neem Coated Urea (NCU); Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY); Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY); National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM); Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY); National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP);

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). In addition, schemes relating to tree plantation (Har Medh Par Ped), Bee Keeping, Dairy and Fisheries are also implemented. All these schemes are implemented to enhance production and productivity of agriculture and thereby enhance income of farmers.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs & Prices (CACP). The Commission collects & analyses data on cost of cultivation and recommends MSP.

Giving a major boost for the farmers' income, the Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of all Kharif crops for 2018-19 Season. This decision of the Government is a historic one as it redeems the promise of the pre-determined principle of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production announced by the Union Budget for 2018-19.

(b) and (c) Government has been laying special emphasis on dissemination of information and knowledge transfer to the farmers through a series of initiatives like Extension Reforms, Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension, Kisan Call Centers, Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centers, Exhibitions/ Fairs etc.

Presently a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms" popularly known as Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) is under implementation in 676 districts of 29 States & 3 UTs. The scheme promotes a decentralized, farmer friendly, farmer-driven and farmer-accountable extension system in the country. Under the scheme Grants-in-Aid is released to the State Governments {In the ratio of 60:40 (Centre:State) to General States, 90:10 for North-Eastern & 3 Himalayan States and 100% for UTs} with an objective to support State Government's efforts to revitalize their extension system and making available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sectors to increase agricultural production and farm income. The extension activities include Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc.

State-wise number of farmers' benefitted through training program under the Scheme during last three years is given in Statement (*See* below).

Further, a network of 681 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) has been established by India Council of Agricultural Research to facilitate farmer's access to knowledge and

information generated by Agricultural Universities and Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR) Institutes of the country.

Further, Farmers' training is provided at the local level through Krishi Vigyan Kendras, vocational agricultural schools and field demonstrations. These training classes may be conducted on specific topics like the use of urea or vast topics like packages of practice. The new information that farmers gain through these training sessions makes their daily farming activities much easier. It also leads to an increase in productivity and bigger profits in the long run.

The State Agricultural Universities are major partners in the growth and development of agricultural research and education under the national agricultural research system. Currently, there are 41 State Agricultural Universities in India. These agricultural universities are responsible for research, training and dissemination of agriculture related information in the State. They generate new technologies to increase production, provide degree and certificate programmes in agriculture and help in the transfer of technology by participating in farmer training classes organised by local agricultural bodies.

Statement

Number of farmers benefitted through training programme under ATMA Scheme

Sl. No.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57789	101091	44622	203502
2.	Bihar	128379	68108	160167	356654
3.	Chhattisgarh	30847	39816	54842	125505
4.	Goa	0	429	0	429
5.	Gujarat	121797	102731	110905	335433
6.	Haryana	7130	4950	8496	20576
7.	Himachal Pradesh	18788	8515	12530	39833
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	8688	27615	0	36303
9.	Jharkhand	8061	9228	8675	25964
10.	Karnataka	48192	47555	57842	153589
11.	Kerala	12354	2047	13443	27844
12.	Maharashtra	63712	59826	95430	218968

Sl. No.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total
13.	Madhya Pradesh	18041	42718	31493	92252
14.	Odisha	48450	40896	131790	221136
15.	Punjab	12708	12071	12165	36944
16.	Rajasthan	28247	30026	115194	173467
17.	Telangana	55251	31377	97625	184253
18.	Tamil Nadu	157640	204500	384380	746520
19.	Uttar Pradesh	88847	65194	97777	251818
20.	Uttarakhand	11172	10309	11803	33284
21.	West Bengal	83750	233604	198800	516154
22.	Assam	4208	575	0	4783
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	18720	10340	75	29135
24.	Manipur	1200	3503	4524	9227
25.	Meghalaya	960	759	6629	8348
26.	Mizoram	1634	1640	11430	14704
27.	Nagaland	12172	4690	11870	28732
28.	Tripura	215	3437	5613	9265
29.	Sikkim	5115	4617	0	9732
30.	Delhi	0	0	0	0
31.	Puducherry	806	1485	706	2997
32.	Andaman and Nicobar	2525	2136	4348	9009
TOTAL		1057398	1175788	1693174	3926360

Implementation of NFSM in Kerala

2725. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) during 2014-15 to 2017-18, State-wise; and

(b) the details of employment opportunities generated in Kerala under the NFSM during 2014-15 to 2017-18?