

Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)/Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDIT) /National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)/Rainfed Area Development (RAD) etc. Assistance is being provided to the farmers for cluster demonstration on improved package of practices, seed production and distribution, improved farm implements/resource conservation machineries/tools, efficient water application devices, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, capacity building etc.

In order to increase production and income of the farmers Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed location specific, cost effective, eco-friendly farming practices namely resource conservation technologies, conservation agriculture, climate resilient technologies, integrated farming system, participatory watershed management for rainfed agriculture etc.

Different mediums such as demonstrations, farmers training, exhibition, kisan mela/goshthi, electronic and print media etc. are adopted in various schemes for bringing awareness among the farmer

Suicide by farmers in Maharashtra

776. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government is aware that between January 2019 to April 2019, over 800 farmers have committed suicide in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the measures taken by the State and the Central Government to tackle farmers' suicide in Maharashtra and other States; and
- (c) the details of the number of farmers' suicides in the country, since 2014, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides are available upto 2015 on its website. The Reports for the year 2016 onwards have not been published.

Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertakes development of perspective plans and ensure effective implementation of the programmes/schemes. Also, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various

Schemes/ Programmes. The various schemes/ programmes of the Government of India are meant for the welfare of the farmers by increasing production and remunerative returns to the farmers.

The Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee in 2016 to recommend a strategy for Doubling of Farmers' Income (DFI) by the year 2022. The DFI Committee has submitted its report. The Government has constituted an Empowered Body on 23.01.2019 for monitoring the implementation of the recommendation of the DFI Strategy. A list of various interventions taken by the Government is given in Statement-I (*See below*). All these steps of the Government of India are for the welfare of the farmers of the country.

(c) As per the ADSI Reports for the years 2014 and 2015, the Total number of suicides by farmers in the country State-wise is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I

List of various interventions taken by the Government for the welfare of the farmers of the country

The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Most of the schemes of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare focus on directly benefitting farmers through various interventions and schemes such as:-

- (i) Initiating market reforms through the State Governments.
- (ii) Encouraging contract farming through the State Governments by promulgating of Model Contract Farming Act.
- (iii) Up-gradation of Gramin Haats to work as centers of aggregation and for direct purchase of agricultural commodities from the farmers.
- (iv) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform.
- (v) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be optimized.
- (vi) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water.
- (vii) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" under which organic farming is being promoted.
- (viii) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, Government has launched a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal

Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.

- (ix) Under “Har Medh Par Ped” , agro forestry is being promoted. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Bamboo has been removed from the definition of trees. A restructured National Bamboo Mission has been launched in the year 2018 to promote bamboo plantation on non forest government as well as private land with emphasis on value addition and product development.
- (x) Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif and Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production.
- (xi) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme ‘ Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)’ . The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is an unprecedented step taken by Government of India to protect the farmers’ income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- (xii) Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.
- (xiii) Rashtriya Gokul Mission to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines and to make milk production more remunerative to the farmers.
- (xiv) National Livestock Mission to increase productivity and genetic improvement of livestock.
- (xv) Foreseeing high potential in fisheries sector, a Blue Revolution with multi dimensional activities mainly focusing on fisheries production, both inland and marine is being implemented.
- (xvi) The Government provides Total interest subvention up to 5% (inclusive of 3% prompt repayment incentive) on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Thus, loan is available to farmers at a reduced rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.
- (xvii) The Government has approved for giving the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities and has

also decided to extend the Interest Subvention Facilities to such categories of farmers.

- (xviii) Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target. The current year's agriculture credit flow target has been set at ₹ 13.50 lakh crore.
- (xix) With a view to provide income support to all farmers' families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The scheme aims to provide a payment of ₹ 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly installments of ₹ 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups. About 14.5 crore farmers are expected to be covered under the scheme.
- (xx) Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme for providing old age pension to these farmer Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of ₹ 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years. The scheme aims to cover around 5 crore beneficiaries in the first three year It would be a voluntary and contributory pension scheme, with entry age of 18 to 40 year The Government has approved a budgetary provision of ₹ 10774.50 crore for the scheme till March, 2022.

Statement-II

State-wise total number of suicides by farmers in the Country in the year 2014 and 2015 as per ADSI report

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014	2015
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	160	516
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	7
3.	Assam	21	84
4.	Bihar	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	443	854

1	2	3	4
6.	Goa	0	0
7.	Gujarat	45	57
8.	Haryana	14	28
9.	Himachal Pradesh	32	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0
12.	Karnataka	321	1197
13.	Kerala	107	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	826	581
15.	Maharashtra	2568	3030
16.	Manipur	0	1
17.	Meghalaya	0	2
18.	Mizoram	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0
20.	Odisha	5	23
21.	Punjab	24	100
22.	Rajasthan	0	3
23.	Sikkim	35	15
24.	Tamil Nadu	68	2
25.	Telangana	898	1358
26.	Tripura	0	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	63	145
28.	Uttarakhand	0	0
29.	West Bengal	0	0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0

1	2	3	4
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0
34.	Delhi (UT)	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	0
TOTAL (All India)		5650	8007

Source: Report on 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' for relevant years, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs:

Benefits of soil testing in Gujarat

†777. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether soil testing work is being conducted in districts of Gujarat;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the number of people who have been benefited by this soil testing during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details of soil testing work conducted in districts of Gujarat is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) The number of people benefited by this soil testing during the last three years district-wise in Gujarat is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

District-wise soil testing work conducted during last 3 years in Gujarat

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of soil samples tested		
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	74052	68190	60246
2.	Amreli	40680	42854	39264

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.