

Beneficial cropping patterns

654. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to advise farmers about the most beneficial cropping patterns using real-time and historical data about demand and supply of agricultural produce; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the works being done by various administrative and scientific agencies of Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) The cropping pattern is dependent on various factors *viz.* agro-climatic conditions of the region, availability of resources, market forces, socio-economic conditions of the farmers, demand and supply of agricultural produce etc. Accordingly, Government of India has been emphasizing promotion of various crops/cropping system *viz.* rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals and commercial crops under National Food Security Mission (NFSM), oilseeds under NFSM-Oilseeds, horticultural crops under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). The new technologies on crops/cropping pattern are demonstrated at the farmers' field through State Department of Agriculture/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) etc. and are creating awareness among farmers to choose appropriate crops/cropping system.

ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram is undertaking extensive research (on-station research) and technology validation through farmers' participatory research (on-farm research) on crop diversification under the aegis of AICRP-Integrated Farming Systems (AICRP-IFS) in 25 States/Union Territory with the participation of 34 State Agricultural Universities and 1 Central University.

A study on "Identification of cropping system module for different farming system" at 36 locations through AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems has been conducted in 31 districts in 20 States.

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has organized seven Agro Climatic Zonal Conferences with the State Governments, ICAR, Agricultural Universities, KVKs during the month of September, 2020 for better planning of cropping systems.