

to promote freedom of choice of trade with farmers while promoting barrier-free inter-State and intra-State trade in farmers produce.

The Government also notified an Ordinance namely "The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020, on 5th June, 2020 to provide for a national framework on farming agreements that protects and empowers farmers to engage with agri-business firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters or large retailers for farm services and sale of future farming produce at a mutually agreed remunerative price framework in a fair and transparent manner.

Further, in pursuance to the announcement of Atmnirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Package, the Government has approved under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of ₹ 1,00,000 crore to provide a medium-long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest market infrastructure including warehousing facility and community farming assets through incentives and financial support.

Government of India has also been promoting storage, cold storage, cold chain and other marketing and value addition infrastructure through its scheme of Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) etc.

(c) The Government has implemented National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme, an online virtual trading platform, to provide farmers with opportunity to directly sell their produce at remunerative prices through competitive online bidding system. So far, 1000 wholesale regulated markets across 18 States and 3 Union Territories (UTs) have been integrated with e-NAM platform. Tradable parameters for 175 commodities have been promoted for trade in e-NAM platform.

As on 31.08.2020, a total of 1.67 crore farmers, 1.44 lakh traders and 83,958 commission agents and 1722 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) have been registered on e-NAM platform. A total trade value of ₹ 1,04,313 crore has been recorded on e-NAM platform.

Steps taken to make agriculture sustainable

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government needs to accelerate its efforts to ensure that it reaches its goal of empowering farmers to decide what crop to sow, and making agriculture sustainable; and

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken in the last three years in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) The Government has already taken various steps to accelerate the adoption of suitable crops and their varieties with other improved technologies through several schemes at farmers fields across the country to achieve sustainable agriculture.

The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) scheme is being implemented in all the 28 States and Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh with the objectives of increasing foodgrains production through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner, restoring soil fertility and productivity at the individual farm level and enhancing farm level economy to restore confidence amongst the farmers. Through the State Governments/UTs, assistance is being provided to the farmers on latest crop production and protection technologies, cropping system based demonstrations, production and distribution of site specific newly released varieties/hybrids/stress tolerant/climate resilient/bio-fortified varieties, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management techniques, improved farm implements/tools/resource conservation machineries and water saving devices and capacity building of farmers through trainings during each cropping season.

The Government is also implementing Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) which intended to address the constraints limiting the productivity of rice based cropping systems in abundantly available natural resource rich region of Eastern India comprising seven States namely, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Further, Crop Diversification Programme is being implemented in Original Green Revolution States *viz.*, Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh as a sub-scheme of RKVY to divert the area of water guzzling paddy crop to alternate crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri-cereals, cotton and agro forestry.

In addition, Targeting Rice Fallow Area (TRFA) programme under NFSM is being implemented in 11 States to encourage farmers to cultivate pulses and oilseeds in rice fallow areas to enhance production and the farm level income.