

- Under Sub-mission on Agriculture Mechanization assistance of ₹ 2.86 crores for 800 tractors mounted spray equipments was sanctioned to Rajasthan. Under RKVY sanction of ₹ 14 crores for hiring of vehicles, tractors and for purchase of pesticides has also been issued.
- Gujarat States has been sanctioned ₹ 1.80 crores under RKVY for capacity enhancement for locust control.
- Under Sub-mission on Agriculture Mechanization assistance of 2.20 crore has been sanctioned for purchase of tractors and spray equipments for Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Pest attack is notified as a natural disaster by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and States can undertake relief operations under State Disaster Response Fund as per established procedure and the norms for assistance.

Crop losses of farmers due to Locust attacks are also covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). The yield losses are assessed through Crop Cutting Experiments and compensation are given to insured farmers as per the provisions of the scheme.

Till now no State Government has reported distribution of relief to the farmers affected by locust attack for 2020-21. However, State Government of Rajasthan has informed that Girdawari/ survey work is underway for estimation of crop losses due to attack of locusts.

Marketing of perishable fruits and vegetables

669. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lack of market for perishable fruits and vegetables, farmers have been forced to indulge in distress sale leading to a reduction in the price at the farm level and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has recently formulated a scheme under Operation Green to prevent distress sale;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to develop model markets for marketing and sale of perishable commodities for better price realization to farmers and also to reduce wastages and affordability of products for consumers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) Agricultural marketing is a State subject and wholesale agricultural marketing is generally undertaken through the network of regulated wholesale markets, set up by respective State/Union territories (UTs) under the provision of respective State Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act. The wholesale and retail prices of the agriculture produce including horticulture commodities depend on variety of factors at any given point of time such as demand and supply of the produce, climate conditions, perishable nature of the produce and availability of transport. The quality parameter also plays an important role in the price of an agricultural commodity.

Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is implemented for procurement of horticultural/ agricultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production.

In order to resolve the market accessibility of farmers and remunerative prices for their produce, Government of India has taken several steps like promoting policy reforms and providing assistance for setting up marketing and value addition infrastructure, reefer transportation facilities mobilizing farmers into Farmer Producer Organization and linking them to markets.

The Government had issued advisories to States/Union Territories (UTs) to facilitate Direct Marketing and allow trade-transactions outside the mandi-yards by liberalizing regulations to decongest the mandis as well as to facilitate direct buying of farmers' produce from their farm gate at remunerative prices.

Further, in order to develop economically sustainable Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) while facilitating adequate market and credit linkage, the Government of India has formulated a scheme "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs". The scheme has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 29.02.2020.

(b) and (c) Operation Greens Scheme, being implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, has been extended from tomato, onion and

potato (TOP) crops to other notified horticulture crops for providing subsidy for their transportation and storage from surplus production area to major consumption centers for the period of six months on pilot basis.

The scheme guidelines were notified and uploaded on the website of Ministry of Food Processing Industries on 11.06.2020. Total 19 fruits and 14 vegetables have been notified under the Scheme. Under the scheme, there is a provision for subsidy at the rate of 50% of the cost of transportation of notified crops from surplus production cluster to consumption center; and/or hiring of appropriate storage facilities, in case their price in the notified production clusters meet any one of the following conditions:

- (i) Price fall below preceding 3 years' average market price at the time of harvest;
- (ii) Price fall more than 15% compared to last year market price at the time of harvest;
- (iii) Price fall less than the benchmark price for procurement, if any, fixed by the State/Central Government for a specified period;

(d) The Government has implemented National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme, an online virtual trading platform to provide farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with opportunity to directly sell their produce from their collection center at remunerative prices through competitive online bidding system.

Further, the Government has promulgated "The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation), Ordinance, 2020" to promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-State trade in farmers' produce to facilitate remunerative prices to farmers in trade areas.

The Government is promoting scientific storage facilities for the farmers in the country to reduce the wastage and improve the holding capacity through the scheme of "Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)", which is a sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM).

The Government through Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) provides assistance for development of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure such as cold storages, ripening chamber, pack houses, reefer vehicles to farmers to improve marketability of their produce.

In order to develop the marketing infrastructure including storages and cold storage etc., the Government is implementing Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) Scheme.

Assessment of crop damage due to locust attack

670. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is widespread locust attacks in different parts of the country causing widespread crop losses to farmers and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(b) whether Government has assessed the damage caused by locust to farmers who are already facing a lot of problems due to COVID-19 pandemic;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is planning to give any compensation to farmers and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other preventive measures taken by Government in this regard in the coming months?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) During 2010-21, the locust incursions were reported in 10 States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Haryana and Uttarakhand, where operations were undertaken in coordination with State Governments for locust control.

State Governments of Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Bihar have reported no crop losses in their States. However, State Governments of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have reported crop damage of less than 33% in 6520 ha, 4400 ha, 806 ha, 488 ha and 267 ha respectively due to locust attack this year.

Initially during May-June, 2020, Government of Rajasthan reported crop damage of 33% and more due to locust attack in 2235 hectare area in Bikaner, 140 hectare in Hanumangarh and 1027 hectare area in Sri Ganganagar; but now, as per revised report, it has been stated that earlier submitted data was related to initial stage of crop sown in Kharif season and this area of crop loss has been re-sown by farmers.