

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 671
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/12/2023

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTES OR TRAINING CENTRES

671. SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of women enrolled in agricultural institutes or training centres, during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether efforts are being made to increase enrollment of women in such institutes and promote their participation in agricultural education and training, details thereof;
- (c) the total funds allocated, disbursed and utilized specifically for skill development programs targeting women in agriculture, in the last five years, details thereof; and
- (d) the initiatives/programs by Government to increase women's participation in agricultural value chains and provide them with opportunities for skill upgradation and access to higher value agricultural activities, details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) 1288530 women were enrolled in various agricultural institutes or training centers, during past three years, year-wise and state-wise, list is attached as **Annexure-I**
- (b) Several initiatives have been taken to enhance the enrolment of women in agricultural institutes and to foster their active participation in agricultural education and training.

The Government of India established National Research Centre for Women in Agriculture, now called ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICAR-CIWA), at Bhubaneswar under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. The Institute has been in the forefront undertaking research on issues affecting women and improving the livelihood opportunities of women in agriculture. ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture is implementing various research projects to address its mandate -Research on gender issues in agriculture and allied fields; Gender-equitable agricultural policies/programmes and gender-sensitive agricultural-sector responses. Notably, a total of 155 number of capacity building programmes for farm women were conducted by ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (CIWA) covering 7270 farm women during 2020-23.

Technological information is also disseminated through Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav and other supporting programmes under various projects. The farm women from scheduled caste community are imparted skill-based training on improved methods of agriculture for the socio-economic empowerment of women in agriculture under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan programme.

The ICAR, through various initiatives, regularly conducts capacity-building programmes such as training, Scientist Farm women interface; Demonstration; exposure visits etc. on women-friendly technologies/ drudgery reducing tools & equipments, income generation and nutritional security for women working in crop science, horticulture, livestock, fisheries, backyard poultry and occupational safety and health of farm women through institute projects as well as All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on women in agriculture. In addition, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DAFW) also implements a training programme, under Human Resource Development scheme of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), on cashew apple utilization exclusively for women beneficiaries to popularize the usage of cashew apple by processing it into various value-added products such as cashew apple Juice, Jam, candy, syrup etc. in association with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of cashew growing states. The above training helps them to start their own small-scale units for preparation of various products for their livelihood.

(c) The details of total funds allocated, disbursed and utilized by ICAR specifically for skill development programs targeting women in agriculture in the past five years is as follows:

(Rs in Lakhs)

Year	ICAR	
	Funds Allocated	Utilized
2018-19	3979.84	3893.84
2019-20	3562.77	3555.56
2020-21	3096.4	3090.75
2021-22	2868.88	2865.49
2022-23	2926.96	2926.21

In addition, the details of funds allocated, disbursed and utilized by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is as follows:

(Rs in Lakhs)

Year	Funds allocated	Fund utilised
2018-19	13,68,600	13,68,600
2019-20	15,12,000	11,32,826
2020-21	15,60,500	11,53,207
2021-22	10,53,500	644440
2022-23	9,81,775	9,81,775

(d) The government has implemented various initiatives and programs aimed at increasing women's participation in agricultural value chains and providing opportunities for skill upgradation in the field. These include:

- i. Database on Women in Agriculture: Creating a comprehensive database to understand and address the specific needs and challenges faced by women in agriculture.

- ii. Livelihood Analysis and Women Empowerment: Conducting analyses to assess livelihood patterns and empower women through targeted interventions.
- iii. Community-Based Technological Interventions: Implementing technological solutions at the community level to enhance food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and entrepreneurship among women.
- iv. Vulnerability Framework and Drudgery Reduction: Developing frameworks to identify and address vulnerabilities while focusing on reducing drudgery in women's agricultural activities.
- v. Gender-Friendly Technologies and Skill Enhancement: Introducing technologies tailored to the needs of women in agriculture and providing skill enhancement opportunities.
- vi. The ICAR has launched "Socio Economic Upliftment of The Scheduled Caste Livestock Farmers and Farm Women in Rural Areas Through Improved Livestock Production Technologies" outreach program which encourages farm women to adopt advanced livestock production technologies, including the distribution of high-yielding poultry varieties and training in scientific livestock management.
- vii. Another significant effort includes the implementation of a major program for new plantation development of cashew and cocoa particularly benefiting small and marginal farmers, including women. The Directorate ensures maximum participation of women beneficiaries in the scheme's implementation.

[To part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 671 dated 08.12.2023]

State/UT	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	734	351	694
Andhra Pradesh	16827	13852	15318
Arunachal Pradesh	10972	10313	13729
Assam	14874	10438	9584
Bihar	25680	17697	29498
Chhattisgarh	17992	18425	22601
Delhi	172	185	330
Goa	559	1387	1558
Gujarat	25001	22404	32569
Haryana	16621	6187	7226
Himachal Pradesh	7792	8090	8676
Jammu & Kashmir	4247	3377	5304
Jharkhand	22584	18126	20349
Karnataka	19073	20195	28207
Kerala	17452	19673	22122
Ladakh	4204	4047	4995
Lakshadweep	125	457	207
Madhya Pradesh	21774	23085	23096
Maharashtra	34188	30579	44475
Manipur	4724	3031	4161
Meghalaya	10059	5250	5631
Mizoram	6898	4249	4332
Nagaland	7620	6590	5823
Odisha	13519	14541	20139
Puducherry	901	439	1050
Punjab	5267	3890	5809
Rajasthan	29264	16248	18374
Sikkim	2622	1399	2110
Tamil Nadu	37450	29954	42516
Telangana	10467	7784	11542
Tripura	2106	1563	2216
Uttar Pradesh	29457	29279	30656
Uttarakhand	5754	7373	8556
West Bengal	13852	12337	21451
Total	440831	372795	474904
Grand Total	1288530		