

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 35
 TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02/02/2024

DECLINE IN AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT IN LIGHT OF ERRATIC MONSOON

35 SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether it is a fact that agricultural growth during July-September in the country saw a sharp contraction on account of an erratic monsoon, as it fell to 1.2 percent, down from 3.5 percent during the April-June quarter, the lowest in four and half years; and
- (b) if so, the plans of Government to deal with food production in patchy and uneven monsoons, an event likely to accelerate in light of climate change?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

- (a) & (b): As per the estimates of Gross Domestic Product for the Second Quarter (July-September) of the FY 2023-2024 released by NSO, MoSPI, the details of GVA growth during April- June, 2023(Q1) and July- September, 2023(Q2) are as below:

Year/Quarters	Growth rate of GVA % (at 2011-12 prices)	
	Whole Economy	Agriculture & Allied Sector
Q1 (April-June)	7.8	3.5
Q2(July- September)	7.4	1.2

To meet the challenges of sustaining domestic food production in the face of changing climate, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched a flagship network project, namely, National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA). The project

aims to study the impact of climate change on agriculture including crops, livestock, horticulture and fisheries and to develop and promote climate resilient technologies in agriculture which will address vulnerable areas of the country and the outputs of the project will help the districts and regions prone to extreme weather conditions like droughts, floods, frost, heat waves, etc. to cope with such extremes. The salient achievements under ICAR are as follows:

- ICAR has developed resilient varieties in different crops tolerant to climatic stresses to improve the food grain production in the face of changing climate. A total of 1888 climate resilient crop varieties have been developed.
- 68 climate resilient technologies have been demonstrated in 454 villages on 15857 farmers' fields.
- 88 biocontrol agent, 31 bio pesticides and 41 bio fertilizers have been documented and circulated.
- Agricultural contingency plans for 650 districts have been prepared and State officials have been sensitized for preparedness through State-level interface meetings. Agricultural contingency plans have been made available online for policy makers to take decisions in the event of delayed monsoons and other extreme weather events.
- Participatory technology development of climate resilient practices has been undertaken involving farmers in risk assessment, demonstrations and adaptation techniques in 151 clusters covering 454 villages, with a footprint of 2.13 lakh households, on 2.36 lakh hectares of land.

The government has launched several initiatives to promote sustainable and climateresilient agricultural practices in the country. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was launched by the Government in 2008 which provides an overarching policy framework for climate action in the country. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is one of the Missions within the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). Major components of NMSA includes Rainfed Area Development (RAD); Soil Health Management, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Agroforestry, Per Drop More Crop, National Bamboo Mission (NBM) etc. The Mission aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate.

To protect the farmers from climate hazards, Government has introduced flagship yield based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) along with weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) from Kharif 2016. The scheme aims at supporting sustainable production in agriculture sector by way of providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of unforeseen natural calamities, adverse weather incidence and to help in stabilize the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming. Comprehensive risk insurance to farmers is provided against unpreventable natural calamities such as drought, dry-spells, flood, hailstorm, inundation etc. under the scheme for entire crop cycle including pre-sowing to post-harvest losses.

With the help of technology interventions, the negative impacts of climate change on agricultural production has been dealt with effectively. The foodgrain production has continuously increased in the country during last 5 years as given below.

(in million tonnes)

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Production of food grains	285.21	297.50	310.74	315.61	329.68
