

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2084
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 09/08/2024

PROMOTION OF AGRITECH

2084. SHRI GOLLA BABURAO:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to promote use of AgriTech in agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which Government provides aid to States like Andhra Pradesh that have been proactively utilising technology to increase farmer income and farm output?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): Recognizing the role of Agri-Tech in addressing challenges and fostering sustainable agricultural practices, various initiatives and policies have been introduced in the country including the state of Andhra Pradesh. to promote technological advancements in agriculture. The government has laid the foundation to establish a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture, incorporating standardised Registries, Krishi Decision Support System, Agri Data Exchange, Consent Manager, Sand Box and a Unified Farmer Service Interface (UFSI).

DPI provides access to technology and information to the farmers across the country to address the farmer-centric solutions, through various digital initiatives. Under the Agristack DPI, the Government has initiated the development of three core registries; viz. Farmers Registry (Registry of Farmers), Geo-Referenced Village maps (of the Farm land plots) and Crop Sown Registry through the Digital Crop Survey to open up possibilities for developing services and solutions by Private Entrepreneurs.

Further, a component called “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” has been launched under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY-RAFTAAR) in 2018-19 with the objective of promoting innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem. Under this programme, start-ups are encouraged to use

innovative technologies to resolve challenges faced in agriculture and allied sectors. A total of 1176 start-ups have been selected in various areas of agriculture and allied sectors under this programme for providing financial support through Knowledge Partners and Agri Business Incubators appointed by the Department for implementation of this programme. Further, the Government of India supports and facilitates the States including the state of Andhra Pradesh for infusing modern and smart farming technologies into the agriculture sector. The use of modern machines including kisan drones is promoted under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM). Under National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA) program, funding is given to State Governments for Digital Agriculture Projects using emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning (AI/ML), Internet of Things (IOT), Blockchain etc. The details of State-wise funds released under SMAM, NeGPA, and RKVY are given in Annexure.

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has been supporting Agri-based startups under the project called National Agriculture Innovation Fund (NAIF) initiated in year 2016-2017. It has two components viz. (I) Innovation Fund; (II) Incubation Fund and National Coordinating Unit (NCU):

- I. Component I: 10 Zonal Technology Management Units and 89 Institute Technology Management Units (ITMUs) established in 99 ICAR institutes provide a single-window mechanism to manage innovations, showcase intellectual assets, and pursue matters related to intellectual property (IP) management and transfer/commercialization of technologies in these institutes.
- II. Component II: Agri-business Incubator Centres (ABICs) are set up to speed up the delivery of the new technologies to stake holders. The ABICs are the nodal point to provide the desired link for Agriculture Research & Development (R&D) Institutions for incubation/commercialization of the validated technologies. So far, 50 Agri-Business Incubation Centers have been established and are operational in the ICAR network under the NAIF scheme.

(i) Release of Funds and Physical Progress under SMAM (2014-15 to 2024-25) as on 22.07.2024

State	Funds Released (Rs. in Crores)	No. of Demos	Trainees Trained	Machines distributed under subsidy	CHCs established	Hi-tech Hubs Established	Farm Machinery Banks Established
Andhra Pradesh	808.72	600	1950	251514	7108	62	3428

(ii) Fund released to Andhra Pradesh under NeGPA:

Year	Central share released	Activities
2021-22	6.669 Crore	i. Krishi application - Bio-metric authenticated subsidy seed distribution ii. e-Panta - A comprehensive digital crop booking by integrating data bases of web-land, Right of Forest Reserve (RoFR), Crop Cultivation Rights Card (CCRC) and e-Fish iii. InSight application - Monitoring of quality control of Seeds, Fertilisers and Pesticide samples and their testing. iv. Crop Life System - Development of repository for 16 Agriculture and 20 Horticulture crops for further use of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) in giving image based advisories to farmers. v. Agri-advisories - Development of a portal where crop health monitoring advisories can be sent to 60 lakh farmers vi. Performance Monitoring Application (PMA) application - Performance monitoring of 10,000 plus Rytu Seva Kendram (RSK) staff, Block level Agriculture officers and sub-division level Asst Directors of Agriculture. vii. Integration of activities with Govt of India programmes like AgriStack and Virtually integrated Systems To Access Agricultural Resources (VISTAAR).
2023-24	5.001 Crore	

(iii) Funds released to Andhra Pradesh under RKVY (Rs. In Crore):

2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release
203.47	97.19	183.20	45.80	86.33	86.33
