

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

RAJYA S A B H A
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 483
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/02/2025

COLLABORATION WITH IIT MADRAS ON THE PROJECT VISTAAR

483. SMT.MAYA NAROLIYA
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives and benefits of the collaboration with IIT Madras on Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources (VISTAAR) Project;
- (b) whether there are any initiative planned to train farmers to use the tools or systems developed under this project; and
- (c) if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): The collaboration between Centre for Research on Start-ups and Risk Financing(CREST), IIT Madras and the Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources(VISTAAR) platform aims to enhance the accessibility and visibility of startups in the agriculture and related sectors. Under this partnership, CREST, IIT Madras serves as a Provider Node on the VISTAAR platform, making publicly available information on Agri-startups accessible to network participants. This initiative aims to benefit farmers in India in the following ways:

- i. **Increased access to innovative agri-solutions:** By integrating information about agritechstart-ups, farmers and other stakeholders can discover and adopt new technologies, improving productivity and efficiency.

- ii. **Better access to markets:** The platform enables startups to list their services and connect with farmers, agribusinesses and financial institutions, fostering a stronger agricultural ecosystem.

- iii. **Support for farm practices, insurance and credit:** The collaboration allows startups to enhance their service offerings, helping farmers gain better financial inclusion, risk management, and modern farming techniques.

(b) & (c): Efforts for VISTAAR includes extension worker training on the digital bots. This can be facilitated through existing partnerships and network volunteers for conducting training to Front Line Extension Workers (FLEW) to enhance video production skills and handling advanced IT tools to access required information at field level for providing further training to farmers in a phased manner.
