

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2545
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2025

PROMOTION OF AGROFORESTRY

2545. SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is actively promoting agroforestry as a means to improve farm incomes and strengthen environmental conservation, particularly in terms of soil health, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity;
- (b) if so, the details of the national and State-level schemes that are currently operational in Punjab, including their objectives and scope, the assistance and incentives (financial or technical) provided to farmers, the total area (in hectares) under agroforestry in Punjab so far, and the agency or authority responsible for implementation and monitoring;
- (c) the target for expansion of agroforestry under these schemes in Punjab over the next five years, including estimated increases in farmer income and environmental benefits; and
- (d) the details of any collaborations with technology partners to support seed quality, pest management, and real-time growth tracking of agroforestry plantations in Punjab?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): To promote agroforestry, Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Agroforestry under Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PMRKVY) since 2023-24. Before this, Agroforestry was promoted under Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) from 2016-17 to 2021-22 in the country, including the state of Punjab. Agroforestry enhances agroecology, improves soil organic carbon and has high carbon sequestration potential. By increasing green cover, agroforestry addresses the loss of diversity in agricultural landscapes, helping to mitigate pollution and conserve biodiversity.

(b) to (d): Under SMAF, Rs. 10.3595 crore was released to Punjab, covering an area of 9,808.32 hectares by planting 54.37 lakh trees from 2016-17 to 2021-22. Presently State of Punjab is not implementing Agroforestry Component under RKVY. However, as informed by the State Government, the Department of Forests & Wildlife Preservation, Govt. of Punjab is implementing the State Scheme of "Crop diversification through Agro Forestry" under Green Punjab Mission since 2022-23. The objective of the scheme is to diversify the present agricultural crop cycle of wheat and paddy by promoting agroforestry for which financial assistance is being provided to farmers. Under this Scheme, an area of approximately 10130 Hectare has been covered under agroforestry from 2022-23 to 2024-25.

Further, Department of Forests & Wildlife Preservation, Government of Punjab aims to cover about 50,000 Hectare under agroforestry under "Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Project" during next 8 years from the year 2026-27 onwards. The project will address both environmental sustainability and socio-economic development. Key expected outcomes include substantial increase in forest and tree cover through agroforestry interventions, thereby leading to improved income & livelihoods of farmers, enhancing carbon sequestration and supporting local industries with sustainable timber resources.

State has technical collaboration with Forest Research Institute (F.R.I.) Dehradun and Punjab Agriculture University (P.A.U.), Ludhiana for research on new and more productive planting material for agroforestry and pest management. The State has also entrusted a project to Punjab Remote Sensing Centre, Ludhiana to map agroforestry plantations in the State.