

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5735

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

CULTIVATION OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers in the country are moving/diverting from cultivation of foodgrains towards the cultivation of horticulture and cash crops including fruits, vegetables and oilseeds in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received proposal of financial assistance from various States including Maharashtra for the promotion and diversification of agricultural production, if so, the details and the present status of the proposals thereof; and

(d) the details of schemes and programmes under implementation for focusing on value addition in the agriculture sector in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): Depending on the rainfall situation, weather and temperature conditions, availability of water in reservoirs, irrigation facilities and inter-crop shift in the area coverage on account of comparative profitability of other competing crops, the area under foodgrains in the country in the recent years has been fluctuating. However, due to higher profitability of horticultural crops, the overall area under fruits and vegetables in the country has been increasing. This shows that although there is no evidence of shift in area from foodgrains, there is growing interest of farmers in cultivations of horticultural crops. A statement showing details of area under foodgrains, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables for the year 2009-10 onwards is given below:

Crops Area (Lakh Hectare)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Food grains	1213.34	1266.71	1247.55	1207.76	1250.40	1208.93
Oilseeds	259.59	272.24	263.08	264.84	280.51	259.99
Fruits	63.29	63.83	67.04	69.82	72.16	73.42#
Vegetables	79.85	84.95	89.90	92.05	93.96	93.55#

As per 2nd advance estimate released by DES. # As per 1st advance estimate released by DAC.

(c): No specific proposal has been received in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) from any state including Maharashtra seeking financial assistance for the diversification of agricultural production. However, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh from 2013-14 as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). This sub-scheme aims to diversify cropping pattern from water guzzling paddy to pulses, oilseeds, maize and agro forestry with the objective of tackling the problem of declining of soil fertility and depleting water table in these states.

(d): In order to promote agriculture sector in the country, the Department of Agriculture

and Cooperation is implementing various schemes and programmes such as Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (NMAET), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) etc. Under the above schemes the focus of Government is primarily on expansion of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation etc.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation of Infrastructure since 2008-09 throughout the country.