

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2559
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05TH AUGUST, 2025

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

2559. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

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

- (a) Whether the Government has conducted any training or awareness drives in Jalpaiguri regarding sustainable farming practices and pesticide-free cultivation, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) Whether farmers in Jalpaiguri have been supported to shift from monoculture to crop diversification under centrally sponsored schemes, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been conducting training and awareness programmes in Jalpaiguri district to promote sustainable farming practices and pesticide-free cultivation. The trainings are conducted in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and State Agricultural Universities to raise awareness among farmers about Integrated Pest Management (IPM), weed control, organic farming, and natural farming. In addition, farmers are also educated on the safe and judicious use of bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, and alternatives to chemical pesticides in field and horticultural crops. In 2025, ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (ICAR-CRIJAF) conducted 214 training and demonstration programmes in Jalpaiguri district under the Jute-ICARE (Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) project in six blocks, focusing on line sowing, mechanical weeding, and improved retting practices. Special emphasis was given to using the microbial formulation "CRIJAF SONA" to speed up retting and enhance fibre quality. These efforts aimed to boost productivity, reduce labour dependency and post-harvest losses. Further, The ICAR-IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute) Regional Station, Kalimpong, conducted a training programme from February 22–24, 2025, at Madhya Khuttimari, Jalpaiguri, under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) focusing on entrepreneurship development and livelihood diversification for tribal farmers. Fifty participants were trained on value addition, market linkages, and integration of allied activities to enhance income. Kitchen gardening kits were distributed to promote nutritional security. Eco-friendly pest control methods, including fruit fly and yellow sticky traps, were demonstrated.

Further, the Government is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), to make agriculture more resilient to the changing climate. Several schemes have been initiated under NMSA to promote sustainability in agriculture in the country including the State of West Bengal. However, district level information is not maintained centrally.
