

# The initiatives taken under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for the welfare of farmers and the agriculture sector have started showing positive results: Shri Radha Mohan Singh

## As compared to the previous government, Modi government has increased the fund for the agriculture sector. It is spending more on rural areas: Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

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**Foodgrain production during the year 2016-17 has broken all the previous records: Shri Singh**

**The annual growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors have been 4.4 percent this year: Union Agriculture Minister**

**Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh addressed media on completion of three years of the Modi government**

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh said the initiatives taken under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for the welfare of farmers and the agriculture sector have started showing positive and encouraging results. The commitment of the Modi government towards the welfare of the farmers is resulting in qualitative improvement in the lives of farmers. Shri Radha Mohan Singh said that the Ministry of Agriculture is working to double farmers' income by 2022, a goal set by the Prime Minister. Shri Singh was speaking at a press conference in National Media Centre on the completion of three years of the Modi government.

Shri Radha Mohan Singh said in the last three years, the Modi government has created new and transparent working style for the growth of the nation. Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, the implementation of the farmers' welfare scheme was turned into a mission by the government. From the perspective of good governance, innovative and reformist approach, our government laid the foundation of future-oriented India.

Shri Singh said the Modi Government has succeeded in creating awareness among the farmers about initiatives taken for the development of the agriculture sector. In three years, continuous and robust efforts have been made to bring qualitative changes in lives of farmers and rural areas.

Union Agriculture Minister said during UPA government, the expenditure made by the Ministry used to be less than the budgetary allocation. For instance, during the year 2011-12 budgetary allocation was Rs.24, 526 crores and the amount spent was just Rs.23, 290 crores. Similarly, in the year 2012-13 budgetary allocation was Rs.28, 284 crores and the amount spent was Rs.24, 630 crores. In the year 2013-14, the budgetary allocation was Rs.30, 224 crore and the amount spent was Rs.25, 896.

On the other hand, under Modi government, the Ministry is spending more than the budgetary allocation for the welfare of the farmers. For instance, in the year 2016-17, the budgetary allocation was Rs. 45,035 crores, but it was increased to Rs. 57,503 crores in the revised budget.

Keeping the welfare of the agriculture sector and farmers in mind, Modi government is increasing the budget every year. For example, the total budget for the welfare of the agriculture sector during the UPA government's four years - 2010-11 to 2013-14 - was Rs.1,04,337 crores, while the present government has allocated Rs.1,64,415 crore during the period of 2014-15 to 2017-18, which is 57.58 percent more.

Shri Singh said that in the initial two years of the last three years, the government provided security and confidence to farmers during two consecutive years of monsoon shortfall. Apart from focusing on the distribution of Soil Health Card, extension of irrigation facilities, low-cost organic farming, national agricultural market, horticulture development, Agroforestry, bee keeping, dairy, fish and egg production, it also focused on agricultural education, research and extension. More investment has been made to strengthen cooperatives. In the last three years, several initiatives were taken to make the country self-reliant in pulses and oilseeds. The farmers were provided unprecedented security through Prime Minister's Fasal Bima Yojana, which has the lowest

premium and covers various risks. The government has given priority to the interests of farmers by providing the District-wise contingency action plans and increasing the relief funds for the farmers affected by drought and hailstorm.

In the three years of the Modi government, the initiatives taken for the welfare of farmers and the agriculture sector through the successful implementation of the schemes have started showing positive results. The achievement of the Modi Government in the agriculture sector is as follows:

- Ø Foodgrain production of the year 2016-17 has broken all previous records. This year, the growth rate in agriculture and allied sector has been approximately 4.4 %.
- Ø According to 3<sup>rd</sup> advance estimate for 2016-17, the total foodgrain production is estimated to be 273.38 million tonnes which is 8.67 % higher than that of the year 2015-16.
- Ø It is also worth mentioning that this production is also 6.37% higher than the average production of last 5 years.
- Ø For pulses, the production during 2016-17 is expected to be 22.40 million tonnes which will be a record production till date and is higher than that of the year 2015-16 by 37%.
- Ø As on 16.05.2017, 725 lakh soil health cards have been distributed to the farmers. Testing of samples and printing of cards are under process. Remaining farmers would be provided cards in the next three months.
- Ø During the year 2011-14, cumulative area under organic farming has increased from 7.23 lakh hectare to 20 lakh hectares during the year 2014-17.
- Ø So far, 417 regulated market from 13 states have joined the scheme.
- Ø Till 15.05.2017, trading of 84 lakh tones of agri produce worth Rs 20,000 crores has been done. Till 15.05.2017, 46 lakh farmers, 90,000 traders and 46,411 Commission Agents has been registered on the portal.
- Ø Milk production was 398.01 million tonnes during the years 2011-14 which increased to 465.5 million tonnes during the year 2014-17. The three year growth rate has been 16.9%.
- Ø Egg production was 210.93 billion during the years 2011-14 which increased to 248.73 billion during the year 2014-17. The three year growth rate has been 17.92%.
- Ø Fish production was 272.88 lakh tonnes during the years 2011-14 which increased to 327.74 lakh tonnes during the year 2014-17. The three year growth rate has been 20.1%.
- Ø 223 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) were formed during 2011-14, whereas 383 FPOs were formed during 2014-17.
- Ø During 2007-14, 6.7 lakh Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) were constituted with an assistance of Rs 6,630 crore whereas during just three years of 2014-17, 15.85 lakh JLGs have been constituted with an assistance of Rs. 16,268 crore.
- Ø Rs. 5.94 crore were spent on bee keeping during 2011-14. Whereas, Rs. 18.14 crore were spent on bee keeping during 2014-17. This is an increase of 205%.
- Ø States were sanctioned Rs. 33,580 crore from State Disaster Relief Fund during 5 years of UPA government. Whereas, Modi Government has allocated Rs. 61,620 crore for 5 years.
- Ø During 2011-12 to 2013-14 i.e. 3 years of UPA Government, states were granted Rs. 9,099 crore from National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF). Whereas, during 2014-15 to 2016-17 i.e. 3 years of Modi Government, States have been granted Rs. 29,194 crore from NDRF. Assistance for Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry is under consideration.
- Ø Under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, a record coverage of 8 lakh 40 thousand hectares has been brought under micro irrigation during the year 2016-17.
- Ø Under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, six crore farmers have got insurance for the Kharif season during three years of 2011-14. Among them, there were only 77 lakh non-lonee farmers. While in the 3 years between 2014-17, 9 crore 47 lakh farmers were insured for the Kharif season, of which 2 crore 61 lakh are non-lonee farmers. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has increased the number of non-lonee farmers by 238.96%. And in the last three years, the number of non-lonee farmers increased by 128.50% in Rabi Crops compared to the preceding three years.

With the able-guidance and leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, proactive officers of the ministry and agricultural scientists, active cooperation of state governments and hard work of farmers, we have not only faced different challenges of the agriculture sector but have also won over them and brought positive and revolutionary changes.

