

**Press Information Bureau
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Ministry of Agriculture**

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Assistance to Farmers for Loss of Crops

State Governments initiate necessary relief measures to farmers in the wake of drought from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with them. Additional financial assistance to State Government, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) on receipt of relief memoranda from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures. During Kharif 2015, the Governments of Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jharkhand declared drought in parts of their States and submitted memoranda seeking financial assistance for drought affected areas from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). An amount of Rs.1540.20 crore has been approved for Karnataka from NDRF. The proposals from other States are at various stages of processing / finalisation.

Besides other measures and provisions of funds under SDRF as also NDRF, the following interventions have been made in the wake of deficient rainfall as per IMD forecast of below average monsoon:

- a) Implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme for protective irrigation of crops;
- b) Enhancement of ceiling on seed subsidy to partially recompense the farmer for the additional expenditure incurred in resowing and/or purchasing appropriate varieties of seeds;
- c) Implementation of interventions on perennial horticulture crops under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH);
- d) Implementation of Additional Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) as a sub- scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Central Government has relaxed the norms under MGNREGA to provide additional employment of 50 days over and above the 100 days per household under MGNREGA in the areas affected by natural calamities including drought for the current year. Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 600 districts for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of any extreme climatic events. States have also been advised to ensure availability of short duration and drought tolerant varieties of seeds so as to be in a position to supply them to farmers in case such a need arises. All State Governments have also been advised to initiate advance remedial action e.g. constructing water harvesting structures under MGNREGA and other such schemes, promoting agronomic practices for moisture conservation, promoting cultivation of less water consuming crops and restoring irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals, energizing tube-wells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps, etc.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Sh. Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundaria in Rajya Sabha today.

NCJ/CP