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NSSO Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households

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NSSO Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households

Practice MCQs

At a glance

The National Statistical Office (NSO) survey of India's farm households, from 2003 to the 2026-27 round

01 **Households**93.1 million agricultural households in 2019, up from 90.2 million in 2013.
02 **Income**Monthly income rose from ₹6,426 to ₹10,218. The two rounds count costs with care.
03 **Debt**51.9 per cent were in debt in 2012-13 and 50.2 per cent in 2018-19.
04 **Next round**Fieldwork for the 2026-27 round began in July 2026.

- SAS is a survey run by the NSO, which sits under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). It covers rural India only.
- The 70th round used a ₹3,000 produce limit. The 77th used ₹4,000.
- Rajasthan led the major states with 78.4 per cent of households.
- Wages overtook crops as the top income source by 2018-19.
- No 2026-27 results had been published by 9 October 2026.

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, glance

SASThe Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households.
Net receipt Total receipts minus total expenses.
Imputed expenseA cost counted even if no cash was paid, such as own seed.
Principal source The source that gave a household the most income.

Every few years, the government asks a sample of India's farm families about their income, debt and land. The Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households, or SAS, is that survey. UPSC has asked questions based on this survey. This lesson covers the big rounds of 2013 and 2019 and the new round that began in July 2026. Figures are dated, and each one is credited to its source.

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What exactly is the Situation Assessment Survey?

SAS is a rural survey run by the National Statistical Office. Each round used slightly different rules, so dates and definitions matter. The rupee sign means rupees.

1. What is the Situation Assessment Survey, and who runs it?

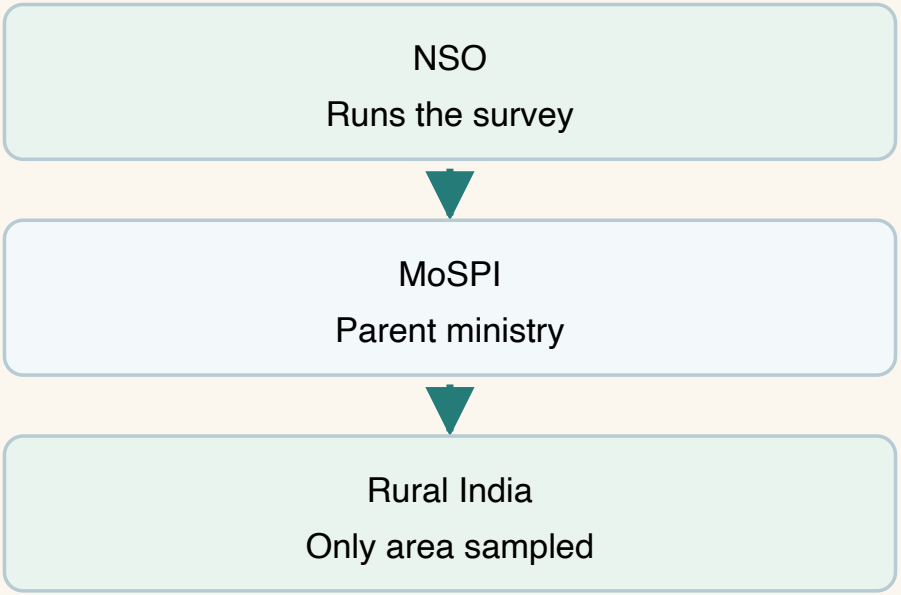
The **Situation Assessment Survey** is run by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The NSO sits under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The survey covers rural India only. MoSPI says it was first launched in 2003.

Older papers and the exam question below use the earlier name, NSSO. That stands for the National Sample Survey Office.

SAS asks about four big topics:

- Income from farming and other work.
- Spending on farm and household needs.
- Productive assets owned by the household.
- Loans and who gave them.

MoSPI says the Agriculture Ministry, NITI Aayog (the government's policy think tank), researchers and financial institutions use SAS findings.



Older papers call the NSO the NSSO.



A minister unveils the plaque of the new NSSO office building in Shahdara, Delhi, in May 2017. Photo: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, GODL-India, via Wikimedia Commons. File page. Licence: GODL-India.

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 1

Source: PIB, All India Debt and Investment Survey and SAS round for 2026-27, item 1

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 1

2. How did the survey change across four rounds?

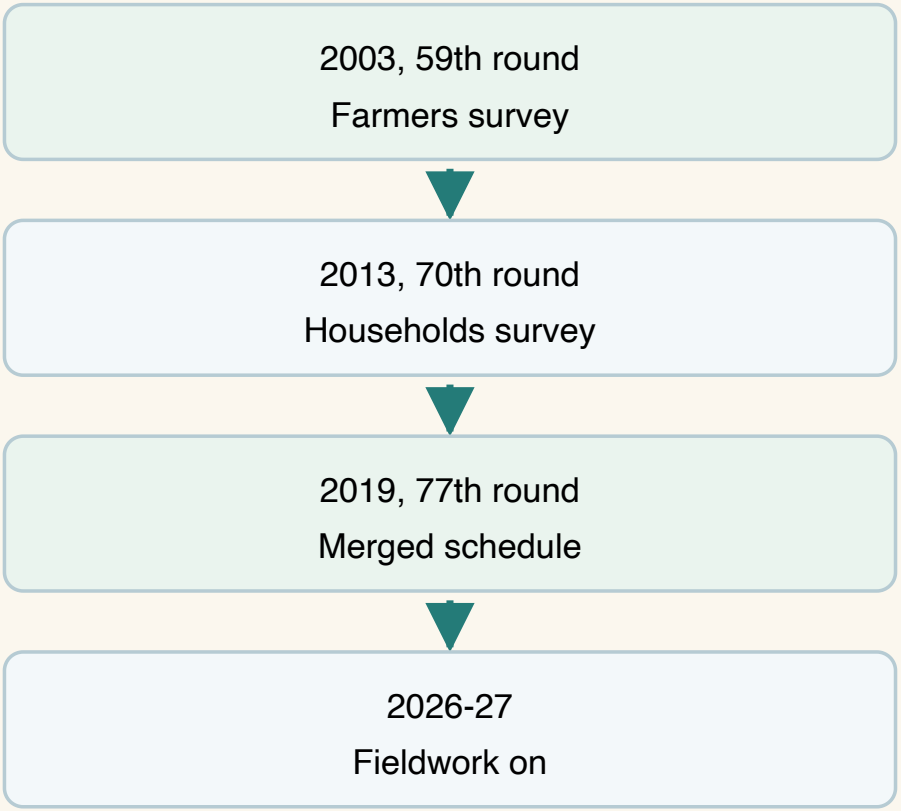
The survey has gone through four phases so far:

- **2003, 59th round:** the Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers.
- **2013, 70th round:** a repeat survey with a new name and wider scope.
- **2019, 77th round:** SAS merged with the land and livestock survey.

- **2026-27:** fieldwork under way since July 2026.

The 59th round ran from January to December 2003. The 70th round ran from January to December 2013. It made two visits. The first was in January to July 2013. The second was in August to December 2013.

The 70th round gave two main reports. Key Indicators came out in December 2014. Report 576 covered income, expenditure, assets and debt.



The 70th round ran January to December 2013.

Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 2

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 2

Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 2

3. Who was a farmer in 2003, and what changed in 2013?

The 2003 survey used the word **farmer**. A farmer was a person who possessed and operated some land and did agricultural work. A household counted as a farmer household if at least one member was a farmer.

This rule missed agricultural activity by households that held no land.

The 70th round changed this. It dropped land possession as a condition. It brought in the idea of an **agricultural production unit** instead. The survey also took its new name, Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households.

2003 farmer	2013 household
Land needed	Land not needed
One farmer member	Produce above limit
Landless left out	One self-employed

The 70th round dropped land possession.

Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 3

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 3

4. Which households count as agricultural households?

A household is an **agricultural household** if it passes two tests:

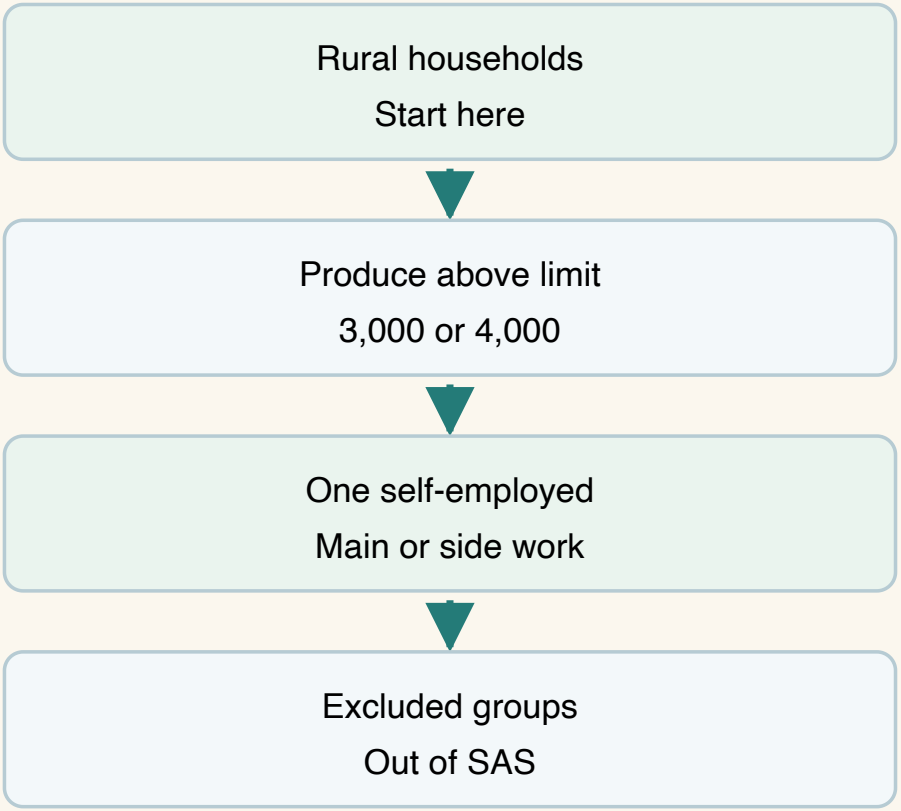
- It produced farm goods worth more than a set limit in the last 365 days. The limit was ₹3,000 in the 70th round and ₹4,000 in the 77th round.
- At least one member was self-employed in agriculture. The work could be in the principal or the subsidiary status.

The ₹3,000 limit was chosen using consumer expenditure data of the 66th round.

Some households are left out even if they do a little farming:

- Households that live entirely on agricultural labour.
- Households with income entirely from coastal fishing.
- Households living entirely on rural artisan work or agricultural services.

Exam trap: the ₹3,000 and ₹4,000 limits are values of farm produce. They are not income limits.



The limits are produce values, not income.

True or False: The ₹3,000 and ₹4,000 limits are limits on household income.
Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 4

Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 4

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 4

5. How many agricultural households did each round count?

The 70th round estimated **90.2 million** agricultural households in rural India. That was 57.8 per cent of rural households. The base was 156.1 million rural households from the land and livestock survey.

The 77th round estimated 172.443 million rural households. Of these, 93.094 million were agricultural. That was 54.0 per cent.

So the count rose between the two rounds, while the share fell. The two shares use different bases, so compare them with care.

The coverage also differed:

- The 70th round covered rural India only, with 4,529 villages and 35,200 households in the central sample.
- The 77th round covered all rural India except hard-to-reach villages in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



Count rose, but the share fell from 57.8 to 54.0 per cent.

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 5

Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 5

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 5

Which states have the most agricultural households?

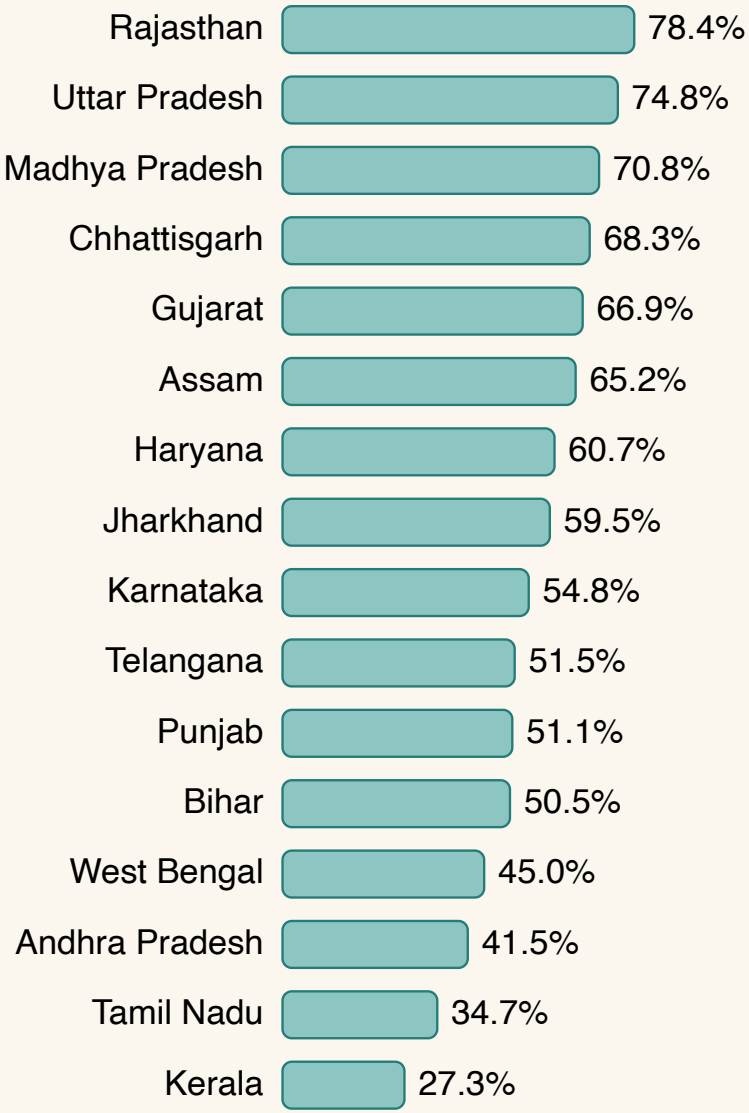
These are 70th round figures. Each share is worked out against the state's own rural households.

6. Which states had the highest and lowest shares?

Among major states, **Rajasthan** had the highest share of agricultural households, at 78.4 per cent. Uttar Pradesh came next with 74.8 per cent. Madhya Pradesh followed with 70.8 per cent.

The chart shows 16 of the 18 major states. Kerala had the lowest share, at 27.3 per cent. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were also low.

Each share is measured against the state's own rural households, not against India's total.



Share of each state's own rural households.

True or False: Among major states, Rajasthan had the highest share of agricultural households in the 70th Round.

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 6

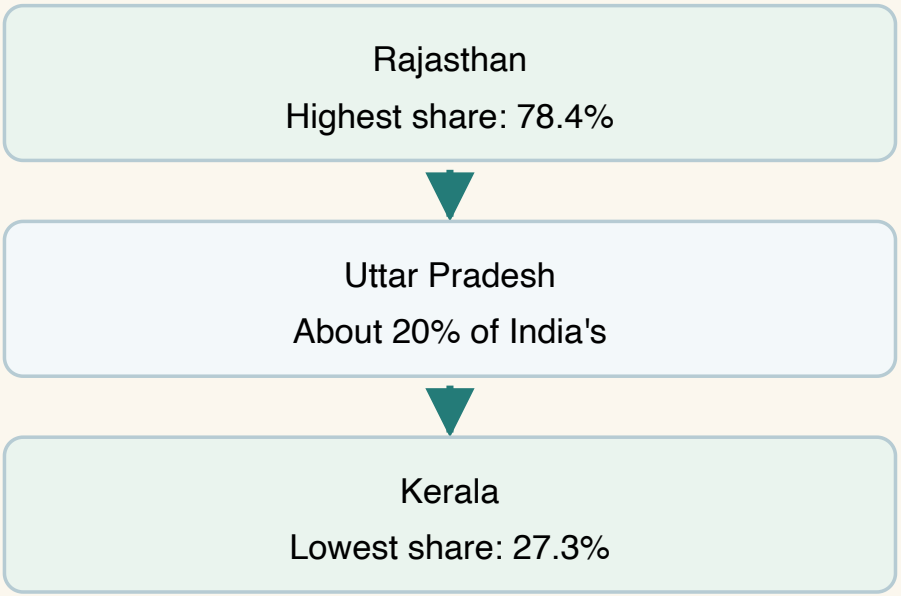
Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 6

7. Does a high share mean farming pays the bills?

Not always. Rajasthan tops the share list. Yet about 47 per cent of its agricultural households named a non-agricultural principal source of income. Nearly half live mainly on other income.

Uttar Pradesh matters for a different reason. It alone held about 20 per cent of all agricultural households in the country.

Kerala sits at the other end. Only 27.3 per cent of its rural households were agricultural.



Uttar Pradesh held about a fifth of all agricultural households.



A wheat field in Jhanjhar village, Kotra tehsil, Udaipur district, Rajasthan. Photo: Deccantrap, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons. File page. Licence: CC BY-SA 4.0.

Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 7

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 7

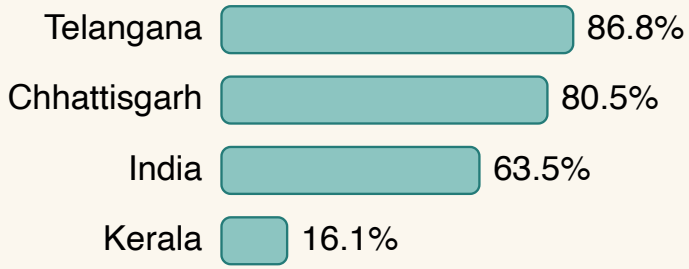
8. Where did cultivation pay the most, and where the least?

The survey asks which source gave a household the most income. That is the **principal source of income**.

For India as a whole, cultivation was the principal source for 63.5 per cent of agricultural households. Wage or salaried work was the principal source for 22.0 per cent.

States differed widely:

- Telangana: 86.8 per cent named cultivation, the highest among major states.
- Chhattisgarh: 80.5 per cent.
- Kerala: only 16.1 per cent.



Share of agricultural households, 70th round.

Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 8

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 8

What does the survey show about social groups and Kerala?

This part covers who farms, why Kerala is an outlier, and how land is spread.

9. Which social groups make up farm households?

Other Backward Classes (OBC) were the largest group in both rounds. The 70th round gave these shares:

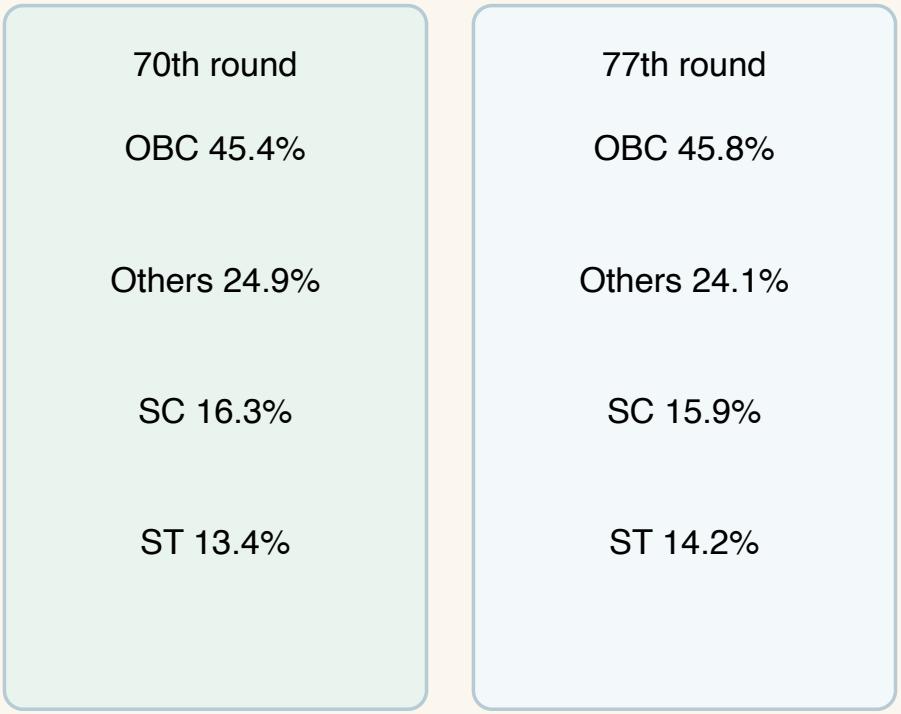
- OBC: 45.4 per cent.
- Others: 24.9 per cent.
- Scheduled Castes (SC): 16.3 per cent.

- Scheduled Tribes (ST): 13.4 per cent.

The 77th round shows a similar pattern. OBC were 45.8 per cent, others 24.1, SC 15.9 and ST 14.2.

SC households are 28.4 per cent of non-agricultural rural households. They are only 15.9 per cent of agricultural ones.

The exam once claimed “a little over 60 per cent” for OBC. That was wrong. The real share is about 45 per cent.



OBC are the largest group in both rounds.

True or False: About 60 per cent of agricultural households were OBC in the 70th Round.
Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 9

Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 9

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 9

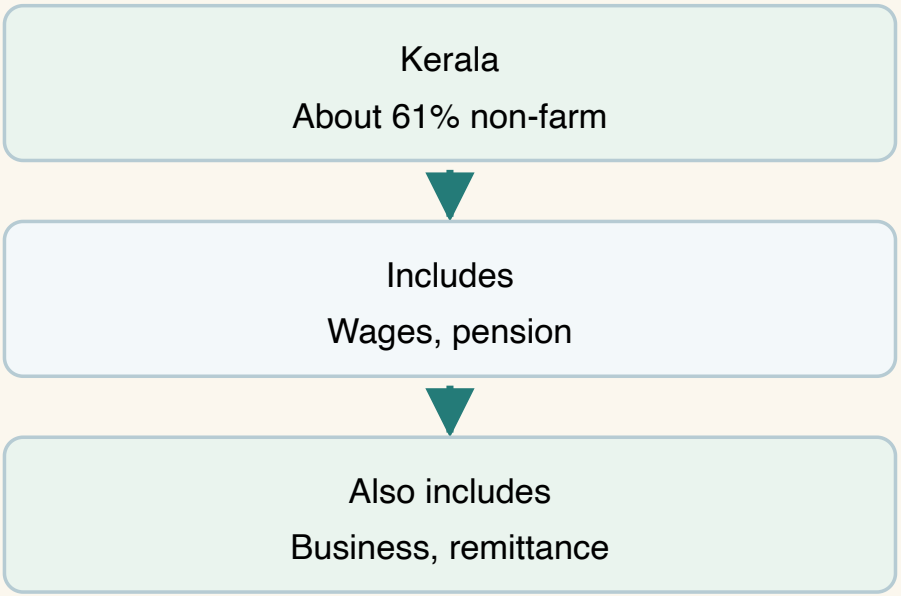
10. What does the Kerala result really mean?

About 61 per cent of Kerala's agricultural households named a non-agricultural principal source. Only 16.1 per cent named cultivation.

The 61 per cent counts every non-agricultural principal source. That includes wages, non-farm business, pension and remittance.

Note what the survey measured. It asked for the main source of income. It did not compare the size of farm income with non-farm income.

So do not say that Kerala's non-farm income outweighed its farm income. Say that most of its agricultural households named a non-agricultural principal source.



It counts the principal source, not the size of income.



Farm workers transplant rice seedlings in Kuttanad, Kerala. Photo: Achuthan K V, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons. File page. Licence: CC BY-SA 4.0.

True or False: About 61 per cent of Kerala's agricultural households named a non-agricultural principal source.
Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 10

Source: UPSC CSP 2018 official question paper, item 10

Source: UPSC CSP 2018 official answer key, item 10

11. How was farm land spread in 2019?

The 77th round used seven land size classes. They run from below 0.01 hectare to above 10 hectares.

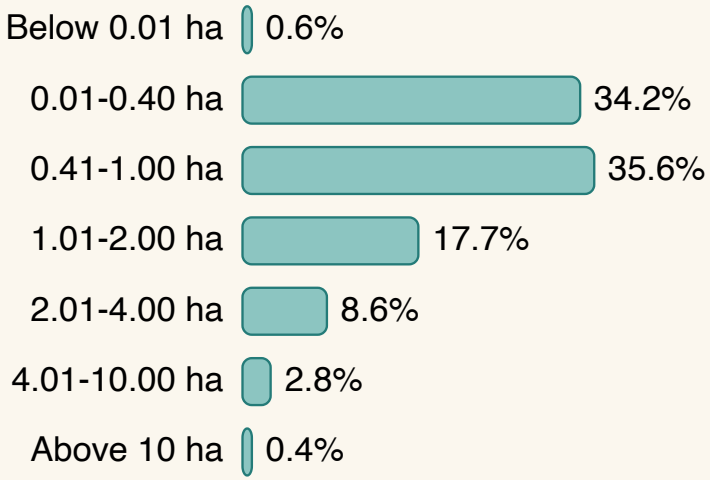
Agricultural households owned 0.876 hectare on average. All rural households owned 0.512 hectare, and 8.2 per cent were landless. A household with 0.002 hectare or less counts as landless.

Small plots dominate:

- 34.2 per cent of agricultural households fell in the 0.01 to 0.40 hectare class.
- Another 35.6 per cent held 0.40 to 1.00 hectare. So about 70 per cent held under one hectare.
- Only 0.4 per cent held more than 10 hectares.

The survey estimated 101.982 million operational holdings, averaging 0.913 hectare. Marginal holdings, up to one hectare, were 72.6 per cent of holdings. They held only 31.7 per cent of the operated area.

Large holdings, above 10 hectares, were 0.3 per cent of holdings. They held 5.4 per cent of the area.



About 70 per cent held under one hectare.

Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 11

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 11

12. Does income rise with land size?

Mostly yes, and sharply. In 2018-19 a household in the 0.01 to 0.40 hectare class earned ₹7,522 a month. A household with above 10 hectares earned ₹60,758. The class below 0.01 hectare is an exception. It earned ₹11,204.

In 2012-13 the same two classes earned ₹4,152 and ₹41,388 a month.

Households with the least land depend mostly on wages. In 2012-13, wages gave ₹2,902 of the ₹4,561 income of households with below 0.01 hectare.

Leasing is also growing. In 2018-19, 17.3 per cent of holdings had leased-in land, up from 13.7 per cent in 2012-13. Leased-in land was 13.0 per cent of operated area, up from 11.3 per cent.

0.01-0.40 ha	Above 10 ha
2012-13: ₹4,152	2012-13: ₹41,388
2018-19: ₹7,522	2018-19: ₹60,758

Monthly income per household, as published.

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 12

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 12

How did the 77th Round change the definition and the income picture?

The 77th round ran in 2019. Its report came out in 2021. It changed how the survey was run and how income is counted.

13. What did the 77th Round change?

Before 2019, the Land and Livestock Holding Survey and the SAS ran on separate sets of households. Data for one household could not be linked across the two surveys.

From 2019 one integrated schedule was used. The same households were visited twice.

More details of the 77th round:

- It ran from 1 January to 31 December 2019.
- Its reference period was the agricultural year July 2018 to June 2019.
- The data cover two halves of that year: July to December 2018 and January to June 2019.
- Visit 1 surveyed 5,940 first-stage units and 58,035 households. Of these, 45,714 were agricultural households.
- National Sample Survey (NSS) Report 587 was released by MoSPI on 10 September 2021.

Before 2019	From 2019
Two surveys	One schedule
Different households	Same households
No linking	Two visits

The merger came with the 77th round.

Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 13

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 13

14. How is a farm household's monthly income built?

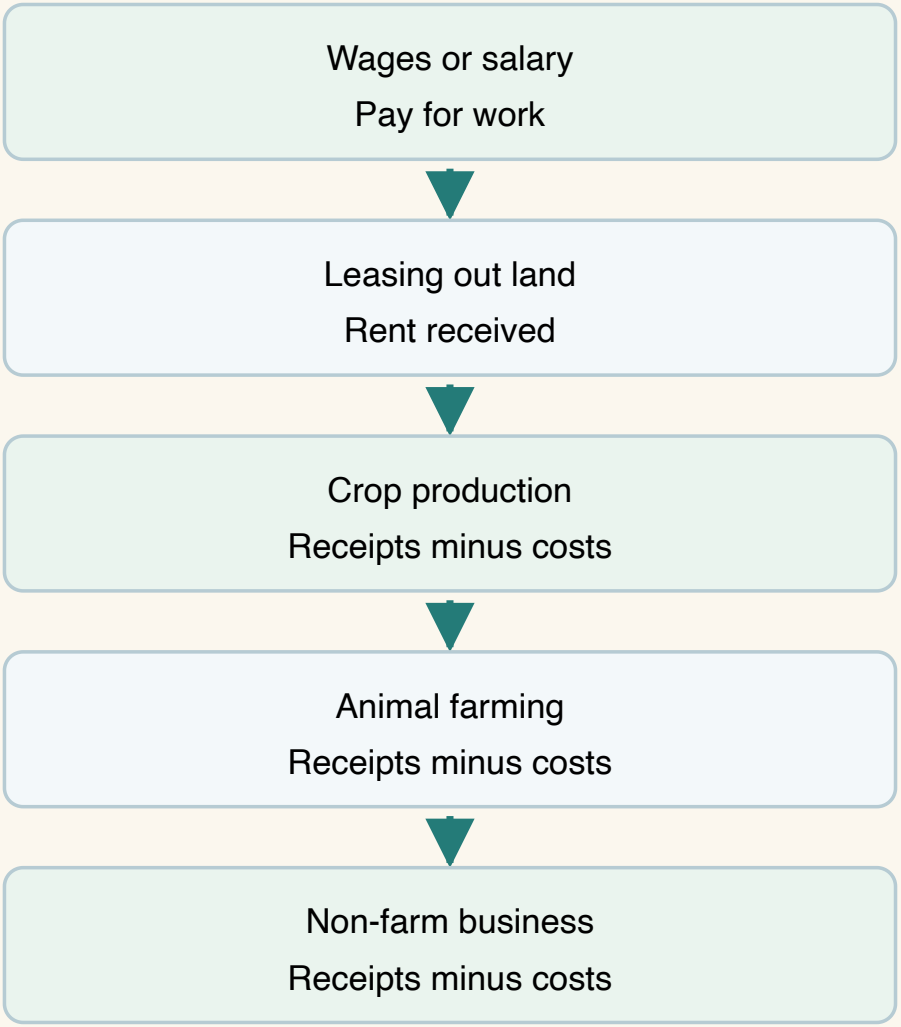
Average monthly income is the sum of **five parts**:

- Wages or salary.
- Leasing out of land.
- Crop production.
- Farming of animals.
- Non-farm business.

For crops, animals and non-farm business, the survey counts **net receipt**. Net receipt is total receipts minus total expenses.

Agricultural activity includes field crops, plantation, animal husbandry, poultry, fishery, piggery, bee-keeping, vermiculture and sericulture.

Income from leasing out land was not collected in earlier rounds. It was added in 2019.



Net receipt means receipts less expenses.

Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 14

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 14

15. Did wages overtake crops as the top income source?

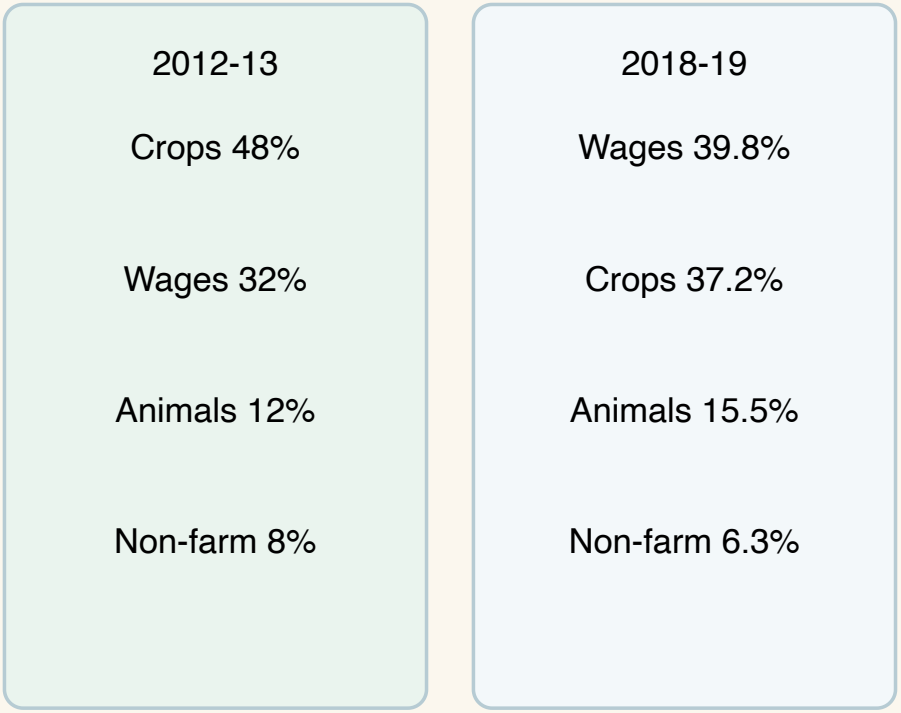
Yes. In 2012-13 the ₹6,426 monthly income was made up of:

- Crops: ₹3,081, about 48 per cent.
- Wages: ₹2,071, about 32 per cent.
- Animals: ₹763, about 12 per cent.
- Non-farm business: ₹512, about 8 per cent.

These shares are worked out from the same table. MoSPI itself says farm business gave about 60 per cent of income.

In 2018-19 the ₹10,218 was made up of ₹4,063 from wages, ₹3,798 from crops, ₹1,582 from animals, ₹641 from non-farm business and ₹134 from leasing. The report's own shares are wages 39.8 per cent, crops 37.2, animals 15.5, non-farm 6.3 and leasing 1.3.

So wages became the largest single source of income for an average agricultural household.



Shares of monthly income. Leasing added 1.3% in 2018-19.

True or False: In 2018-19, crop production was the largest single source of household income.
Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 15

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 15

Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 15

16. Why are there two income figures for 2018-19?

The 77th round counted expenses in two ways. The result is two income figures for the same year:

- **₹10,218** a month, counting only expenses actually paid out.
- **₹8,337** a month, counting paid-out and imputed expenses.

Imputed expenses include own seed, manure and unpaid family labour. The 70th round used out-of-pocket expenses only, to keep data collection simple.

Parliament replies compare ₹10,218 with ₹6,426. Both figures use the paid-out approach.

Under the full-cost approach, crop income drops from ₹3,798 to ₹3,058. Animal income drops from ₹1,582 to ₹441.

Report 587 calls the two rounds broadly comparable but urges care on income. Leasing income was new in 2019. No 2026-27 results had been published by 9 October 2026, so ₹10,218 remains the latest official NSO figure.



Same survey, two methods.

True or False: The ₹10,218 figure counts only expenses that were actually paid out.
Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 16

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 16

Source: PIB, written reply on farm income, item 16

Source: PIB, written reply on income of farmers, item 16

17. Which states earned the most and the least in 2018-19?

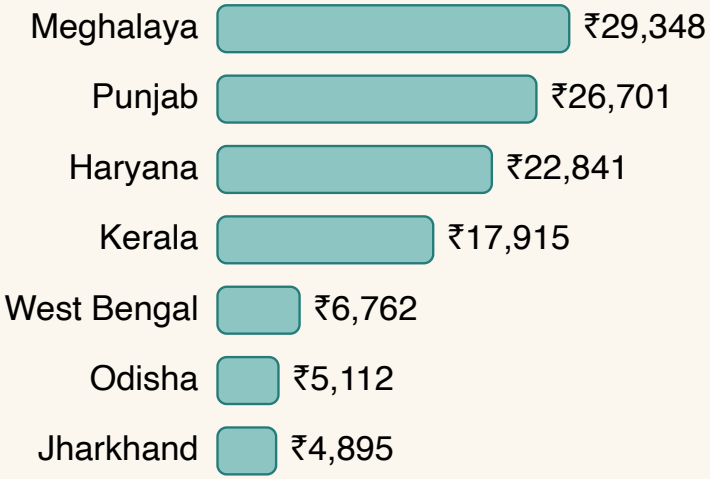
The top three monthly incomes per agricultural household were:

- Meghalaya: ₹29,348.

- Punjab: ₹26,701.
- Haryana: ₹22,841.

The lowest three were Jharkhand at ₹4,895, Odisha at ₹5,112 and West Bengal at ₹6,762.

Kerala's average was ₹17,915. Wages gave ₹10,201 of it. This fits the Kerala result from item 10.



Top three, Kerala and bottom three states.

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 17

Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 17

What do debt, costs and the next round tell us?

This part covers debt, farm costs, how the data is used, and what is new in 2026-27.

18. How did debt change between the two rounds?

In 2012-13, 51.9 per cent of agricultural households were indebted. In 2018-19 the share was 50.2 per cent. So the share fell only a little.

The average outstanding loan per agricultural household rose. It went from about ₹47,000 to ₹74,121.

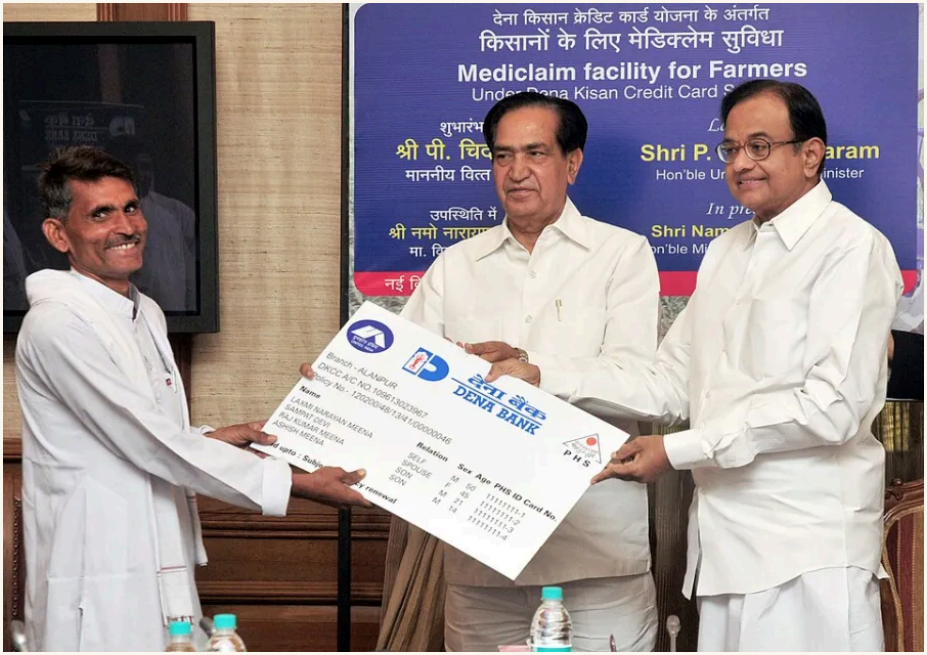
The source of loans shifted too:

- Institutional sources gave about 60 per cent of loans in 2012-13, and 69.6 per cent in 2018-19.
- Agricultural and professional moneylenders gave 25.8 per cent in 2012-13, and 20.5 per cent in 2018-19.
- In 2018-19, 57.5 per cent of loans were taken for agricultural purposes.

In 2012-13 banks gave 42.9 per cent of loans, co-operatives 14.8 per cent and government 2.1 per cent.

2012-13	2018-19
51.9% in debt	50.2% in debt
Loan ₹47,000	Loan ₹74,121
Institutional 60%	Institutional 69.6%
Moneylender 25.8%	Moneylender 20.5%

Loan is the average per agricultural household.



The Finance Minister hands policy papers and a card to a farmer on 24 April 2013. Photo: Ministry of Finance of India, GODL-India, via Wikimedia Commons. File page. Licence: GODL-India.

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 18

Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 18

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 18

Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 18

19. Who borrowed the most, by land size and by state?

Debt rises with land size. In 2018-19, 38.5 per cent of households with below 0.01 hectare were in debt. For households with above 10 hectares, the share was 81.4 per cent.

The average loan grew even faster. It was ₹26,883 per household in the smallest class and ₹7,91,132 in the largest.

In 2012-13 the pattern was the same. Debt incidence rose from 41.9 to 78.7 per cent. The largest class had an average loan of ₹2,90,300.

State patterns in 2018-19:

- Most indebted: Andhra Pradesh at 93.2 per cent and Telangana at 91.7 per cent.
- Least indebted: Nagaland at 6.0 per cent, Mizoram at 8.0 and Meghalaya at 9.1.
- Largest average loans: Andhra Pradesh at ₹2,45,554 and Kerala at ₹2,42,482.

In 2012-13 Andhra Pradesh also had the highest share, at 92.9 per cent.

Below 0.01 ha	Above 10 ha
38.5% in debt	81.4% in debt
Loan ₹26,883	Loan ₹7,91,132

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 19

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 19

Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 19

20. What do farm costs, receipts and advice look like?

The 77th round also tracks costs and receipts. These are monthly averages per household engaged in the activity:

- Crop production: ₹2,959 spent and ₹6,960 received.
- Animal farming: ₹1,267 spent and ₹3,704 received.

Cropping changed with the season. In July to December 2018, 92.7 per cent of agricultural households grew crops. In January to June 2019, the share was 72.5 per cent.

The average value of crop output per household was ₹46,277 in the first half and ₹50,807 in the second.

Technical advice reached 48.7 per cent of households in July to December 2018. It reached 42.2 per cent in January to June 2019. About 89 to 90 per cent of those who got advice adopted it.

Crops	Animals
Spent ₹2,959	Spent ₹1,267
Received ₹6,960	Received ₹3,704

Averages per household engaged in the activity.

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 20

Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 20

21. How does SAS data feed policy?

Government replies in Parliament cite SAS to show income growth. They quote ₹6,426 for 2012-13 and ₹10,218 for 2018-19.

The government set a target of doubling farmers' income by 2022, in real terms. An inter-ministerial committee on doubling farmers' income was formed in April 2016. It gave its final report in September 2018.

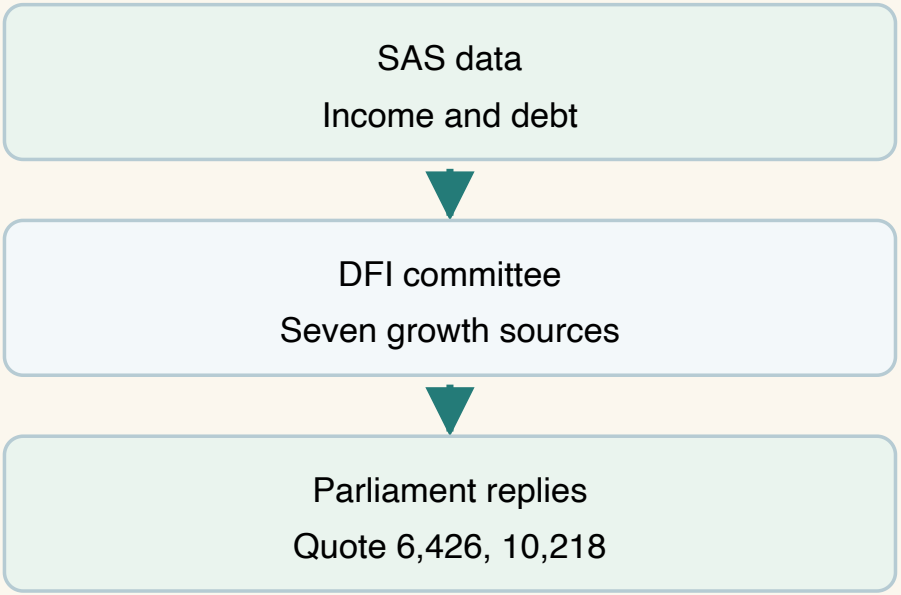
The committee named seven sources of income growth:

- Crop productivity and livestock productivity.

- Lower cost of production.
- Higher cropping intensity and high-value crops.
- Better prices.
- A shift to non-farm work.

In July 2018 the Centre said the minimum support price would be at least 150 per cent of the cost of production for kharif 2018-19. SAS asks about awareness of the minimum support price (MSP) and of procurement agencies for each crop sold.

The 70th round found low MSP awareness and low sales to procurement agencies, except for sugarcane. Most crop sales went to local private traders or mandis.



The committee reported in September 2018.

Source: PIB, written reply on farm income, item 21

Source: PIB, doubling farmers' income, item 21

Source: PIB, MSP and income release, item 21

Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 21

22. What is the 2026-27 round, and where does it stand?

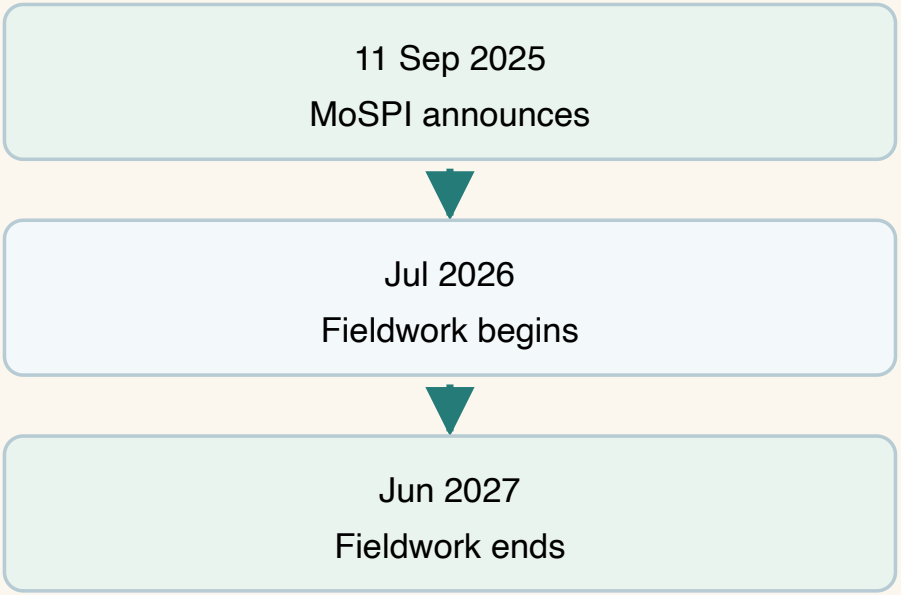
MoSPI announced on 11 September 2025 that two surveys would run from July 2026 to June 2027. They are the All India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS) and SAS.

The last AIDIS was in the 77th round of 2019, at the request of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). AIDIS covers rural and urban households, while SAS covers rural households.

The new SAS covers, among other topics, crop insurance and access to government schemes.

The round is no longer only planned. The NSO began fieldwork in Nagaland in July 2026 for AIDIS, a Migration Survey and SAS. Fieldwork is scheduled to continue until June 2027. A Nagaland report dated 19 September 2026 says the surveys are under way.

No official results or round number had been found as of 9 October 2026. So ₹10,218 remains the latest official NSO figure.



No results had been published by 9 October 2026.

Source: PIB, All India Debt and Investment Survey and SAS round for 2026-27, item 22

Source: Morung Express, NSO launches surveys in Nagaland, item 22

Source: Eastern Mirror, three NSO surveys under way, item 22

23. What is NAFIS, and why not mix it up with SAS?

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) ran a second income yardstick. Its second rural financial inclusion survey, **NAFIS 2021-22** (the NABARD All India Financial Inclusion Survey), was published in October 2024. It covered 1 lakh rural households.

NAFIS put average monthly income of an agricultural household at ₹13,661 in 2021-22. For non-agricultural households it was ₹11,438. For all rural households it was ₹12,698. Cultivation gave about one-third of

agricultural household income.

Exam trap: NAFIS is a NABARD survey. It is not an NSO Situation Assessment Survey.

It covers a different year with different methods. So do not set ₹13,661 against ₹10,218 as a growth figure.

NAFIS	SAS
Run by NABARD	Run by NSO
2021-22	2018-19
₹13,661 a month	₹10,218 a month

Different surveys. Do not compare them as growth.

True or False: NAFIS is a Situation Assessment Survey run by the NSO.
Source: PIB, NAFIS 2021-22 press note, item 23

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 23

What has UPSC asked about this?

UPSC asked this question on SAS in Prelims 2018. The statements are a good test of the facts above.

24. Which 2018 Prelims question tested the 70th round?

The question is from the UPSC Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2018, General Studies Paper I, Question 3 (Booklet Series A).

Answer key: (c) 1 and 3 only. Statement 1 is right, since Rajasthan had 78.4 per cent. Statement 2 is wrong, since the OBC share was about 45 per cent. Statement 3 is right, since about 61 per cent of Kerala's households named a non-agricultural principal source.

Statement	Verdict
1 Rajasthan	Correct
2 OBC over 60%	Wrong, 45%
3 Kerala 61%	Correct

Key (c): 1 and 3 only.

Source: UPSC CSP 2018 official question paper, item 24

Source: UPSC CSP 2018 official answer key, item 24

Source: MoSPI, Key Indicators of the 70th round, item 24

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 24

25. Which traps do examiners set on this theme?

These traps repeat in questions on SAS:

- **Which body.** The NSO under MoSPI runs SAS. It is a rural survey.
- **Which limit.** ₹3,000 belongs to the 70th round and ₹4,000 to the 77th. Both are values of produce.

- **Which merger.** The 77th round was the first to merge SAS with the land and livestock survey.
- **Largest income source.** Crops led in 2012-13, and wages led in 2018-19.
- **Outlier states.** Among major states, Rajasthan has the highest share, Kerala the lowest. Meghalaya, Punjab and Haryana lead on income. Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal trail.
- **Look-alike surveys.** NAFIS is run by NABARD. AIDIS is a debt and investment survey.

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 587, item 25

Source: PIB, 77th round release, item 25

Source: MoSPI, National Sample Survey Report 576, item 25

Four questions to think through

Why can both ₹10,218 and ₹8,337 be right for 2018-19?

The two figures count expenses differently. The first counts only paid-out expenses. The second also counts imputed expenses such as own seed and unpaid family labour.

Why is Kerala's 61 per cent not a claim about income size?

The survey asked for the principal source of income. It did not compare farm income with non-farm income. So only the main source is known.

Why can the debt share fall while the average loan rises?

The two numbers measure different things. One is the share of households in debt. The other is the average loan per agricultural household.

Why did the 2019 merger help link household data?

Before 2019 the two surveys covered different households. Data for one household could not be linked. From 2019 the same households answered one schedule.

Check your understanding

Your 7 quick checks Answered 0 of · Correct
This score resets when the page reloads.

Continue to the practice MCQs

✅ Test Yourself

Try practice questions on the NSSO Situation Assessment Survey.

Practice MCQs

1. Which body conducts the Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households in India? [IndEco0294]

A. NABARD

B. NSO (MoSPI)

C. RBI

D. Ministry of Agriculture

See answer ↓

2. In 2018-19, which source gave the largest share of an average agricultural household's monthly income?

A. Crop production

B. Wages

C. Farming of animals

D. Non-farm business

See answer ↓

3. The figure of ₹10,218 a month for 2018-19 counts expenses in which way?

A. Only expenses actually paid out

B. Paid-out and imputed expenses

C. Only imputed expenses

D. No expenses at all

See answer ↓

4. Which agency ran the NAFIS 2021-22 survey that put agricultural household income at ₹13,661?

A. NABARD

B. NSO

C. NITI Aayog

D. RBI

See answer ↓

5. When was the SAS's most-cited round conducted, and what income threshold did it use to define an 'agricultural household'? [IndEco0294]

A. 75th Round (2018), ₹3,500 threshold

B. 77th Round (2019), ₹4,000 threshold

C. 66th Round (2011), ₹2,500 threshold

D. 70th Round (2013), ₹3,000 threshold

See answer ↓

6. Consider the following statements about the NSSO's 70th Round SAS (2013) findings:

1. Uttar Pradesh had a higher share of agricultural households than Madhya Pradesh.

2. About 45% of agricultural households were OBC.

3. Kerala's agricultural households earned most of their income from farming.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? [IndEco0294]

A. 2 and 3 only

B. 1, 2 and 3

C. 1 only

D. 1 and 2 only

See answer ↓

7. The NSS 77th Round (2019) raised the agricultural-household definition's income threshold to which amount? [IndEco0294]

A. ₹5,000

B. ₹3,000

C. ₹6,000

D. ₹4,000

See answer ↓

8. As per MoSPI's September 2025 announcement, in which period will the NSO's next Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households be conducted? [IndEco0294]

A. January 2026 to December 2026

B. July 2027 to June 2028

C. April 2026 to March 2027

D. July 2026 to June 2027

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **B.** The key is NSO (MoSPI). The National Statistical Office runs the survey. It sits under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Older papers call it the NSSO, the National Sample Survey Office. SAS covers rural India only, and MoSPI says it was first launched in 2003. ↑ Q1
2. **B.** The key is wages, at ₹4,063 of ₹10,218 a month. Crops gave ₹3,798. In 2012-13 crops had led, at ₹3,081 of ₹6,426. So wages overtook crops between the two rounds. The report's own wage share is 39.8 per cent. ↑ Q2
3. **A.** The ₹10,218 figure counts only expenses actually paid out. Counting imputed expenses too gives ₹8,337. Imputed expenses include own seed, manure and unpaid family labour. Parliament replies compare ₹10,218 with ₹6,426. ↑ Q3
4. **A.** NAFIS is the second rural financial inclusion survey of NABARD. It was published in October 2024 and covered 1 lakh rural households. It is not an NSO Situation Assessment Survey. Its ₹13,661 should not be set against ₹10,218 as growth. ↑ Q4
5. **D.** The key is the 70th Round (2013), with a ₹3,000 limit. The 77th Round (2019) raised the limit to ₹4,000, so it cannot pair with ₹3,000. The 66th Round only supplied the consumer data used to choose ₹3,000. Note what the limit means. It is the value of farm produce in the last 365 days, not income. ↑ Q5
6. **D.** The key is statements 1 and 2 only. Uttar Pradesh had 74.8 per cent of rural households as agricultural. Madhya Pradesh had 70.8 per cent, so statement 1 is right. OBC were 45.4 per cent of agricultural households, so statement 2 is right. Statement 3 is wrong, since Kerala had the lowest share at 27.3 per cent and most of its households named a non-agricultural principal source. ↑ Q6
7. **D.** The key is ₹4,000. The 77th Round raised the limit from ₹3,000 in the 70th Round. The limit is the value of farm produce in the last 365 days. The same round also joined SAS with the land and livestock survey, using one schedule for the same households. ↑ Q7
8. **D.** The key is July 2026 to June 2027. MoSPI announced it on 11 September 2025. The All India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS) runs on the same schedule. Both are NSO surveys. NSO began fieldwork in Nagaland in July 2026. ↑ Q8

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