

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4721
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2001
RESEARCH PROGRAMMES OF PLANT VARIETIES FOODGRAINS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the hybrid/high-tech research programmes of plant varieties/foodgrains currently undertaken by Indian scientists;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to meet the need of such high yielding and resistive varieties of plants and foodgrains;
- (c) whether such high yielding varieties of Plants/foodgrains are imported; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) High priority is being accorded for development of hybrids to harness hybrid vigour in food grains, specially in crops such as rice, maize, pearl millet and sorghum. The hybrid technology is also being widely used in sunflower, safflower, castor, rapeseed-mustard, pigeon pea, vegetables such as tomato, brinjal, Cauliflower, Cucurbits, etc. and fruits such as mango, guava, grape, apple, melons etc. under various All India Coordinated Research Projects/Institutes and National Agricultural Technology Project under ICAR. Similar high priority is given to high-tech research area like biotechnology. Development and testing of transgenic crops varieties are in different stages of progress in crops such as potato, brinjal, cauliflower, cotton, rice etc.

(b) For realizing the potential of hybrid for achieving high yield and resistance to pests and disease, a special project on `Promotion of Research and Development efforts on hybrids in selected crops` was implemented during 1989 to 1996-97 with an outlay of Rs. 2988.407 lakhs. This Project with appropriate reorientation is now supported from World Bank under NATP as `Development of Hybrids-crops` with a budget outlay of Rs. 1793.27 lakhs. Similar emphasis on hybrid research and development in vegetables was given under `Network Project on Promotion of Hybrid Research in Vegetable Crops` from 1.10.95 to 31.3.99 with an outlay of Rs. 344.01 lakhs. This project is now extended under NATP as `Development of Hybrid Vegetable Crops` with an outlay of Rs. 363.95 lakhs. The programme on hybrid technology also includes frontline demonstrations for testing the above crop hybrids in farmer's fields. Funds are also provided under United Nations Development Programme for promotion of hybrid rice.

(c) Most of the high yielding hybrids and varieties in all crops are indigenously developed by our own scientists. However, a few hybrids/planting material/varieties in selected crops are being imported by the private sector under the new seed policy.

(d) Seeds and planting material are being imported under the New Seed Policy. Details of such material recommended for import during the last three years are enclosed (Annexure-I).

Annexure I

Details of Seed/Planting material recommended for Import during the last three years:

(Qty. in Nos/T)

Sl. Particulars No.	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1. Sprouted Oil Palm seedlings	26.5 lakhs (C)	12.27 lakhs (C)	
2. Fruits & Root Stocks & Cutting of Apple, strawberry, plum, pear, grapes etc.	15.96 lakhs (C)	0.58 lakhs (C)	3.21 lakh (C)

3. Maize seed	1.628 T (E)	0.718 T(E)	0.02 T (E)
4. Jujuba seed	2.00 T (C)		
5. Papaya seed	0.032 (C)		
6. Soybean seed	0.075 (E)	0.25 (E)	
7 Rape seed	3.00 T (C)		
8. Pea seed		0.25 (E)	0.03 (E)
9. Jute seed		0.18 (C)	
10. Berseem seed		0.054 (E)	0.025 (E)
11. Grass seed		7.375 (C)	0.16 (C)
12. Other seeds		0.01 (E)	0.60 (E)

Symbol C = cultivation
E = Experiment