

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:205
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
NATIONAL HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE
GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a two-days National Horticulture Conference was held recently in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the discussions held with outcome thereof;
- (c) whether a few scheme on sustainable development of horticulture through intervention has been formulated for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan for effective application of technology, besides support and risk management; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. A National Horticulture conference was organized in Delhi on 18-19th October 2002 to take stock of the development in horticulture and to review the progress of the developmental schemes on horticulture with Central assistance. The Conference was attended by Scientists from Indian Council of Agricultural Research, State Agricultural Universities, Officials from Central and State Governments, progressive farmers including Presidents of various commodity Associations of horticultural crops. During the Conference presentations were made by Resource Speakers covering issues of National and topical importance, crop related issues, State experiences and new interventions for Tenth Plan which was followed by detailed discussions. Individual ongoing schemes on horticulture were also discussed. The major recommendations of the Conference is given in the statement at Annexure.

(c) & (d): A new Central Sector Scheme on Sustainable Development of Horticulture through Technological Interventions has been formulated for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 240.00 crores. The scheme would address various aspects of horticulture development covering capacity building for manpower development, innovative technology application, establishment of multicrop nurseries, technology intervention for cultivation, creation of infrastructure facilities, risk management etc.

Annexure

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE HELD AT NEW DELHI ON 18-19 OCTOBER 2002

1. The intervention in the horticulture sector has been highly rewarding and the contribution of horticulture in the GDP of agriculture has increased from 24.5% to 29.65%. This supports the need for enhanced allocation for the horticulture sector in tune with the recommendation of the Working Group in Horticulture for Tenth Five Year Plan.
2. Most of the States have included horticulture development programmes in the Work Plan for 2002-03. However, in many States the outlay on horticulture is much below 30% of the total outlay earmarked under Macro Management Scheme. Hence the State Government should ensure that at least 30% of the outlay is earmarked for horticulture development programmes in the State.
3. Formation of nine Commodity Associations on Horticulture is a welcome step. There is need to promote the formulation of such Associations of other crops.
4. The horticultural produce being highly perishable and seasonal there is need to have a mechanism in the form of Price Stabilization Fund for providing support to the farmers. Similarly, horticulture crops are not covered under Crop Insurance Scheme. Hence there need to have a mechanism to meet the insurance cost being charged for horticultural crops by some of the firms like GIC.
5. The flow of credit to the horticulture sector continue to be weak. There is need to emphasise upon NABARD to reduce the interest rate on loans for horticulture development projects.
6. There is need to have synergy in the development programmes being implemented by different agencies like NHB, MFPI, SFAC, MORD, MO Health etc. A Committee may be constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) to ensure proper coordination.