

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:786  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006  
PRODUCTION OF JATROPHA .  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to launch a scheme for intense campaign to grow Jatropha for bio-diesel;
- (b) If so, whether any research programmes are also being conducted to provide good quality seeds of Jatropha; and
- (c) If so, the details thereabout and the latest position of the progress made in that regard so far alongwith the projected works/research to be undertaken thereunder? ANSWER

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): Based on the recommendations of the Committee for Development of Bio-fuels set up in the Planning Commission in 2001-2002, Ministry of Rural Development (MORD) was designated as Nodal Ministry for proposed National Bio-diesel Mission. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed Mission submitted by Ministry of Rural Development at an estimated cost of about Rs. 1286 crore was examined in Planning Commission and `in principle` approval has been accorded in December, 2005.

The proposed National Bio-diesel Mission is to be implemented in two phases i.e. Phase-I as Demonstration Project and Phase-II a Self Sustaining Expansion of Bio-diesel Programme. Under the demonstration phase, promotion of Jatropha curcas cultivation in forest & non-forest areas(2 lakh ha. non- forest land & 2 lakh ha. forest land) specially in wasteland is proposed to be carried out over a period of 5 years.

Besides, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme `Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds` through National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD)Board for promotion of tree borne oilseeds including Jatropha during 10th Plan.

(b)&(c):A National Network on Jatropha involving 32 R&D institutions of Indian Council of Agriculture Research(ICAR), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research(CSIR), Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education(ICFRE) and State Agricultural Universities has been initiated by NOVOD Board during 2004-05 to address various researchable issues.

The R&D programmes under the National Network on Jatropha are in progress. The details of research findings on various aspects of R&D programme on Jatropha

The details of research findings on various aspects of R&D programme on Jatropha

1. Survey and collection of superior planting material(seeds & cutting):

About 1758 superior planting material/seed source of Jatropha have been identified on the basis of phonological characteristics.

2. Progeny trial of superior planting material:

The progeny trials of identified superior planting material area being conducted to evaluate the adaptability of accessions in particular locations for better growth and development.

3. Multi-locational trial at National/Zonal level:

About 513 seeds samples have been analyzed for oil content and 205 samples have

been cryo-preserved in NBPGR.

4. Agri-silvicultural trial:

Agri-silvicultural trials are being conducted with inter-crops particularly with legumes and pulses. These trials have shown encouraging results of growth of inter-crops and Jatropha.

5. Hybridization in *Jatropha curcas*:

The advance line of *Jatropha* having high oil content, high yield, more drought tolerance character, resistance to insect-pest & diseases etc. have been identified in various states.

6. Tissue culture:

Partial success has been achieved to develop a commercially viable tissue culture protocol of *Jatropha*.

7. Seed viability

The seed viability of *Jatropha* has been reported upto one year and best time for sowing is from February to March.