

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1836  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006  
AGRICULTURE SCIENTISTS WORKSHOP  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any National workshop of agriculture scientists has been conducted to promote modern farming and profit making crops;
- (b) if so, the details of work done and financial assistance provided by the Union and State Governments to promote the production of sunflower, soybean and mushroom etc. in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the details of the scientists engaged in promoting modern farming in the country, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), in pursuance of its mandate, is engaged in generation of farm-worthy research and human resources development through a network of research institutions to achieve science-based growth and development of agriculture. National workshops of agricultural scientists are organized on crops/commodities/themes involving the concerned scientists for working out research strategies for promotion of modern farming for increased income for the farmers.

(b) In order to promote the production of sunflower, soybean and mushroom in the country, the Council has established Directorate of Oilseeds Research at Hyderabad to work on a number of oilseed crops including sunflower, National Research Centre for Soybean at Indore, and National Research Centre for Mushroom, Solan.

All these institutes have national mandate and accordingly the research works are taken up. During the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06), eight varieties of sunflower have been released at the national level including their production practices. During the same period, an amount of Rs.3.67 crore was provided to All India Coordinated Project on Sunflower under Plan fund implemented by the Directorate of Oilseeds Research, with a provision of Rs.1.12 crore during the current financial year.

As far as soybean is concerned, during the same period, six varieties have been released including their production practices. An amount of Rs.15.27 crore was provided to NRC on Soybean, with a provision of Rs.3.61 crore during the current financial year.

Insofar as mushroom is concerned, a number of improved strains of button, oyster and paddy straw mushroom have been developed, besides improved substrate preparation, casing material, and cultural practices. An amount of Rs.12.50 crore was provided during the last three years with a provision of Rs.2.26 crore during the current financial year.

(c) The main extension system is operated by State Development Departments for promoting modern farming in the country. The ICAR has sanctioned a network of 540 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) aiming at technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of technology/product to facilitate the promotion of modern farming. Each KVK has been provided with a multi-disciplinary team of six Subject Matter Specialists headed by a Programme Coordinator. The State-wise details of number of KVKs are given in Annexure.