

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6198  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010  
INCREASING SUGARCANE PRODUCTIVITY  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the International Crops Research Institutes for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is involved in research on rain dependent crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the crop variety improvement programmes launched/undertaken by the said institute;
- (d) the details of the funds allocated to the said institute for its research activities during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (e) whether the said institute and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have envisaged that by adopting sustainable sugarcane initiative, farmers would be able to increase yield by 20 per cent and reduce consumption of water;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the number of farmers trained under this initiative; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Government to promote and assist this initiative?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is conducting research under four themes viz (i) Agro-ecosystems development (ii) harnessing biotechnology (iii) crop improvement & management and (iv) institutions, markets, policy and impacts. Their mandate crops are chickpea, pigeonpea, groundnut, pearl millet, sorghum and small millets.

(c) For cultivar development, ICRISAT is working on five crops, viz. sorghum, pearl millet, chickpea, pigeonpea and groundnut.

(d) The source of funding to ICRISAT is from different bilateral projects/programmes and from different countries including India.

India is a donor member to CGIAR and contributes 0.75 US million dollars to CG institutes as unrestricted funding every year out of which ICRISAT received US\$ 170500 in last three years and current year. In addition, the details of contribution of Govt. of India to ICRISAT under restricted funding in the last three years are given below:-

Year Contribution (US\$ million)

2007-08	0.60
2008-09	0.40
2009-10	0.40

(e) & (f): Yes, Madam. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have established a collaborative project to improve the water productivity of major crops. This includes sugarcane also under the name Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI). By adopting SSI principles it is envisaged to improve the yield of sugarcane by 20%, and reduce water consumption.

(g) & (h): Training has been imparted to about 200 farmers under this initiative. The Initiative is at initial stage and further promotion will depend on the outcome of this initiative.

