

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2592

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010

ICRISAT

Singh Shri Radha Mohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT);
- (b) the details of the activities undertaken and achievements made by ICRISAT during the last three years;
- (c) the measures taken to educate the farmers and to increase agricultural production by ICRISAT; and
- (d) the extent to which the farmers have been benefited?

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): ICRISAT is an International organisation, set up by the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research (CGIAR). According to its Annual Report 2009 its mission is to reduce poverty, enhance food and nutritional security and protect the environment of the semi-arid tropics by helping improve the poor through science with a human face, while its goal is to mobilize with partners cutting edge science and institutional innovations for poverty alleviation, food security, human development and environmental protection for poor rural families in semi-arid production systems of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

(b): According to information received from ICRISAT, it conducts research on topics such as crop improvement, biotechnology, watershed and drought management, socio-economic and policy studies and knowledge management. The achievements include strengthening of Center of Excellence in Genomics with an additional investment of US\$1 million for state of the art molecular genomic technology from the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. A number of sorghum and pearl millet hybrids and chickpea and groundnut varieties have been developed. Recently, ICRISAT has undertaken the development of sweet sorghum for bioenergy production, and breeding lines, populations and hybrid with high sugar yield have been identified.

(c): As per the information provided by ICRISAT, it has conducted number of field days in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Chattisgarh and Tamil Nadu during Kharif and rabi seasons to disseminate the results of the new technologies in the villages. Farmers from the nucleus villages have visited ICRISAT to get first hand information about the new technologies and are serving as the lead trainers in the villages to spread the new technologies and cultivars.

(d): As per the information provided by ICRISAT, the number of direct beneficiaries in various joint ICRISAT and state government programmes are given below:

Project	Region	No. of farmers per year
---------	--------	-------------------------

Model Watershed	9 States	1,300
-----------------	----------	-------

NAIP	8 Districts in A.P	50
------	--------------------	----

Bhoo Chetana,	6 Districts	1,97,000
Government of		
Karnataka		

More crop per drop,	4 States	800
---------------------	----------	-----

Ministry of Water
Resources

SDTT and SRTT 4 States (19 districts) 3,500

TOTAL 2,02,650