

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3759

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010

AGRO BIO DIVERSITY

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has urged the farmers to develop awareness regarding locally available agro bio-diversity in the neighbourhood community to encourage grassroot conservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): National Biodiversity Authority, an autonomous body under Ministry of Environment & Forest is supporting awareness generation programme towards conservation of biodiversity which also includes agrodiversity. Besides, The location specific crop varieties evolved through the breeding programmes using indigenous materials recommend for cultivation to the farmers so as to conserve the agro-bio- diversity.

To give a roadmap to agro-biodiversity National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) and Biodiversity Management Committee (BMCs) have been constituted. NBA and SBBs are required to consult the concerned BMCs on matters related to use of biological resources and associated knowledge within their jurisdiction. All matters relating to access by Indians for commercial purposes will be under the purview of the concerned State Biodiversity Boards.

NBA has taken up following programmes for creating awareness:

1. National conference on native livestock breeds and their sustainable use organizing by the Vechure Conservation Trust, Thrissur, Kerala.
2. Enhancing community level conservation of local livestock breeds through recognition rewards and networking proposed by SEVA, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
3. National symposium on livestock biodiversity conservation and utilization: Lessons from past and future perspectives, organized by National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal.
4. Brainstorming workshop to discuss important issues pertaining to conservation of farm animal genetic resources in India, organized by the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi and Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi