

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4448
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
R& D ACTIVITIES IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the Research and Development activities in agriculture sector;
- (b) the achievement made in this regard; and
- (c) the extent to which 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) Visualizing the need to enhance Research and Development (R&D) activities in agriculture sector, the Government has allocated an outlay of Rs.12023 crore to DARE/ ICAR during the XI Plan which is substantially higher in comparison to X Plan outlay of Rs.5368 crore and IX Plan outlay of Rs.3376.95 crore. To address the emerging challenges the research agenda has been prioritized in the XI Plan.

(b) DARE/ICAR through its 97 institutes spread all over the country has made significant achievements in enhancing agricultural production and productivity, resulting in 4 times increase in food grains production, 6 times increase in horticultural crops and milk, 9 times in fish and 27 times in egg production since 1950-51. In the recent past, DARE/ICAR has released/identified 96 varieties/hybrids of crops, a Bt. Gene Cotton (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) variety Bikaneri Nerma for resistance to boll worm. Besides, the quality seed production of field crops has reached a record level of 0.85 lakh tonne during 2008-09.

In Fisheries Sector, through freshwater aquaculture, early breeding of Catla and Rohu achieved, paving way for year round availability of their seed.

In Animal Science Sector, ICAR has achieved a unique scientific landmark in the birth of cloned buffalo calf for the first time in the World and also launched quality animal seed production programme in sheep, goat, pig and poultry.

DARE/ICAR has also developed a good number of tools, implements, processes and pilot plans like zero till drill, strip till drill, pneumatic planter, manure spreader etc. which have helped the farmers in enhancing their agriculture production.

DARE/ICAR has also geared up its activities to address the issues related to abiotic stress by establishing a National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management in Maharashtra.

(c) The technologies developed by DARE/ICAR are disseminated to farmers through a wide network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras which provide frontline demonstration and training to farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Also ICAR has developed state-specific technologies for the benefit of farmers, thus, providing support in terms of achieving higher productivity/ production.