

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4267

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011

RESEARCH ON GM CROPS

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

- (a) whether as per the Indian GMO Research Information System, there are 74 crops which are being genetically modified in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the pros and cons of the said research activities in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of the findings thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): According to information available with ICAR, research related to genetic modification is currently being carried out in 72 crops/plant species. These are Cotton, Soybean, Rice, Maize, Wheat, Sorghum, Potato, Brinjal, Tomato, Sugarcane, Castor, Blackgram, Greengram, Cowpea, Sunflower, Safflower, Jute, Coffee, Orange, Watermelon, Chickpea, Papaya, Tea, Pigeonpea, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Mustard, Sugarbeet, Bamboo, Groundnut, Onion, Okra, Apple, Casava, Alfa-alfa, Banana, Pearl Millet, Peas, Guava, Field bean, Ginger, Rubber, Cucumber, Muskmelon, Carrot, Ragi, Strawberry, Pomegranate, Tobacco, Mulberry, Eucalyptus, Carnation, Yam, Chrysanthemum, Elaichi, Chilli, Bell Pepper, Beach She-oak, Brahmi, Arabidopsis, Ada-Kodien, Kirayat, Physic Nut, Mahaua, Phyllanthus, Black Pepper, Cotton wood, Babchi, Stevia, Ashwagandha, Vanilla. The traits being examined in these crop plants are abiotic and biotic stresses resistance, nutritional/quality improvement, yield improvement etc.

(c) & (d): All research/modification work relating to genetic engineering requires, since 2002, regulatory approval of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), which considers all the aspects before giving approvals. Further, research in genetic traits and modification is a world-wide phenomenon. Hence, the criticality of continuing, and enhancing, the research efforts in this area in the country.