

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:963  
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012  
SKILLED MANPOWER IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the Government has encouraged co-operation between India and USA at university level to provide skilled manpower in agriculture sector and also promote significant changes/improvement therein;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any recommendation has been made by the Government to increase the allocation for the agriculture sector in the ensuing Five Year Plan in order to promote new developments in the sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the other steps being taken by the Government to make new changes in agriculture sector and to strengthen skilled manpower?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has signed MOUs with American Universities such as Cornell University, Michigan State University and University of Illinois. Areas of cooperation include exchange of faculty and students, sandwich educational programme for students, training of scientists/faculty, joint research programmes and exchange of information, academic materials and publications.

(c) & (d): The 12th Plan Working Group on Agricultural Research and Education constituted by the Planning Commission has recommended the Public investment in agricultural research and education to be increased to one percent of AgGDP. The group has recommended an amount of Rs.55,000/- crore for ICAR for the 12th Plan.

The current focus of ICAR is on innovations for promoting knowledge- intensive agriculture, conserving the natural resource-base, developing stress-resistant varieties, cutting-edge biotechnological research, and capacity building for the same.