

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1003

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012

PRODUCTIVITY OF CROPS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the productivity of various crops like paddy, wheat, pulses, etc. in the country is far less in comparison to the neighbouring countries and research activity in the field of agriculture in the country has also slowed down to a great extent;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the research activity in the country so as to ensure that the farmers are benefited to a large extent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The comparative productivity in the region is given in Annexure. Productivity depends on various factors such as dependence on rainfall, extent of inputs such as fertilizer, micro nutrients, etc., seed replacement rate, duration of the crop of the crop, the extent of the area sown under any crop and the nature of lands used for its cultivation. India's crop productivity per unit area, per unit time and per unit energy is almost comparable to other countries.

(c) & (d): Department of Agricultural Research (DARE)/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is working in frontier areas of research viz. marker assisted selection, stem cell research, nanotechnology, cloning genome resource conservation etc. so as to enhance agricultural production. DARE/ICAR in the XI Plan has established a National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management in Maharashtra to address the issues related to impending climate change and two institutes namely National Institute of Biotic Stress Management and Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology are in the pipeline for undertaking high quality research. In addition, the Central Government has launched several schemes including Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Horticulture Mission and National Project for Soil Health and Fertility for enhancing agricultural productivity.