

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:977
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
INTER CROPPING
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether inter-cropping is beneficial in cutting down the use of chemicals which helps in production but harm the environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any research has been made by the research institutes in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): Intercropping systems which are having synergistic effect help to reduce use of chemicals. Intercropping with trap crops reduces use of pesticides while intercropping with leguminous crops in cereals reduces rate of application of chemical fertilizers.

(c) & (d): Project Directorate for Farming Systems Research, Modipuram studies crop intensification/diversification of prevailing cropping systems of the country through its 31 on-station and 32 on-farm centres. Trap crops are also tested for pest and disease management in organic farming at 13 locations through Network Project on organic farming. Some of the salient research findings are annexed.