

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3015  
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012  
HIGH YIELDING BREEDER ONION SEEDS  
Dhruvanarayana Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the high-yielding breeder onion seeds are being used in Karnataka for farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the results of yield achieved so far; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote the high-yielding breeder onion seeds in other States also?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): High Yielding breeder seed for use in Karnataka is produced by Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore, Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (DOGR), Pune and National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), Nasik. In Karnataka, both high yielding varieties as well as local varieties of Onion are grown by the farmers. The high yielding varieties namely Arka Kalyan, Arka Pragati, Arka Niketan, Agrifound Light Red and Agrifound Dark Red are replacing the local varieties viz. Bellary Red, Telagi Red and Satara Garwa. The average marketable yield of these varieties is between 250 – 300 quintals per hectare during Rabi and 150-175 quintals per hectare during Kharif in transplanted crops which is 15-20% higher than the local varieties. IIHR produces around 10 tonnes per year onion breeder seed of varieties Arka Kalyan, Arka Niketan and Arka Pragati and around 3 tonnes are produced through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). DOGR produces 2-3 tonnes of breeder seed per year whereas NHRDF has produced 23.56 quintals of four varieties viz., Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red, NHRDF Red and Agrifound White during the year.

(c): The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation Government of India is giving assistance under National Horticulture Mission Programme to NHRDF for seed production of high yielding onion varieties and distribution to the onion growers of the country. The quality seeds thus produced is also being distributed to farmers of Karnataka State. The details of onion seed produced and distributed by NHRDF in last three years in the country is at Annexure.