

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5122
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
BT. COTTON ACREAGE
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bt. cotton acreage has expanded significantly during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of Bt. cotton hybrids available in the country; and
- (d) the steps being taken to improve the Bt. cotton yields in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Due to rapid adoption and acceptance of usefulness of the Bt. Hybrids, the productivity and net income of the farmers has increased. The details of Bt. Cotton acreage expansion during the last five years is as under:

Year 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12#

Area in 54.72 66.69 85.52 93.36 111.39#
Lakh
Hectares

Provisional

Sources Director, DOCD, Mumbai

(c): The year wise Bt. Cotton hybrids approved by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee are as under:

Year Number of Bt.
Hybrids approved

2002 3
2003 Nil
2004 1
2005 16
2006 42
2007 76
2008 145
2009 281
2010 245
2011 106
2012 46
Total 961

Source MoEF, (CS Division). This is an indicative list of the approvals only and does not reflect on the total number of the Bt. Cotton hybrids available in the Indian market.

(d): Steps being taken to improve the Bt. Cotton yield are given below:-

Standardization, validation and dissemination of fertilizer (including secondary and micronutrients) and water management strategies.

- # Standardization and dissemination of location specific water scheduling through drip irrigation system.
- # Optimization of crop geometry and plant population of Bt. cotton hybrids under different agro climatic situations.
- # Monitoring of sucking pest incidence/intensity and issue of farm advisories for their management.
- # Refinement of IPM technology for Bt. Cotton, its validation and dissemination.
- # Backstopping provided through the commercialization of BT detection kits to maintain trait purity of Bt. Seeds.