

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1605
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has decided to send a team of farm experts to African countries to help them in improving their agricultural practices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these farm scientists explore agricultural potential and help to train manpower in the farm sector and interact with the farm experts to get a first hand knowledge of cultivation process there;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which this explored agricultural potential is likely to be beneficial to the farmers?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The Department has 4 bilateral Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) and 2 Work plans with 3 African countries namely Ethiopia, South Africa and Zambia under which scientists visit various African countries. In last 3 years, 16 scientists have visited 7 African countries with reference to various MoUs/Work Plans/Diplomatic requests.

The Department is also implementing Indo-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) programme since 2010, under which 69 students have been enrolled for the M.Sc. Programme and 31 students for the Ph.D. programme. Besides, 4 trainings have so far been organized for 58 participants.

The above programmes are useful tools for capacity building of African scientists and would go a long way in harnessing their capabilities thereby benefitting the farmers in the long run.