

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2568
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
AGRO-BIO DIVERSITY
Venugopal Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a project called Bio-DIVA has been jointly undertaken by the German and Indian researchers to promote agro-bio diversity in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details and the objectives thereof; and
- (c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) While there is no such joint collaborative programme between Indian Council of Agricultural Research & German researchers, the Bio-DIVA project is reportedly a joint project between M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Chennai and Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany.

(b) & (c): According to the Leibniz University website, apparently the objectives are protection of agro biodiversity, thereby enabling small and marginal communities to preserve their traditional knowledge, make a living as well as protect the environment; (b) to develop instruments for a sustainable and gender equitable use of agro biodiversity; (c) to protect the entire ecosystem, including the availability of water and other locally important bio-resources like wild edibles and medicinal plants which the tribal communities are dependent on. This is an ongoing project centered in Wayanad District, Kerala.