

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2587

ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012

CROP TECHNOLOGY

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any long term measures to improve crop technology and mechanism to make the produce of farmers competitive in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken several initiatives by conducting basic and applied research through its 24 crop based research institutes and 31 crops related All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) mostly situated in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) to improve crop technology, mechanism to make their produce competitive in global market.

(b) The ICAR has developed several location specific cost effective improved technologies like varieties/hybrids, crop diversification, resource conservation technologies (zero tillage, bed planting, laser leveling, system of rice intensification), soil reclamation/amelioration measures, integrated soil-water-nutrient management, water harvesting and conservation, participatory watershed models, micro-irrigation, integrated farming system, integrated pests/diseases management measures etc which have boosted the agricultural production and quality produce in the country. Apart from the varieties/hybrids developed for high yield and tolerance to diseases, several trait specific varieties with improved quality parameters have also been developed to make the produce competitive in global market (Annexure 1). With these efforts, the export of different commodities has increased over a period of three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11 (Basmati rice from 15.56 lakh tonnes to 21.83 lakh tonnes; pulses from 1.37 lakh tonnes to 2.05 lakh tonnes; Groundnut from 2.98 lakh tonnes to 4.17 lakh tonnes; Guar gum from 2.58 lakh tonnes to 4.04 lakh tonnes).

(c) Question does not arise.