

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2924
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
PRODUCTIVITY OF FOODGRAINS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the production and productivity of foodgrains per hectare registered in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether the production and productivity of foodgrains in the country are far below that of USA, China and other countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures taken/being taken to increase the production and productivity of foodgrains in the country at par with international level?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a): State-wise details of production and productivity of foodgrains during the last three years and the current year, i.e., 2009-10 to 2012-13 are given at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): As per information available with Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) for 2010 (latest available), comparative position of production and productivity of major foodgrain crops in India vis-à-vis other major countries in the world is given at Annexure-II.

Major reasons for low production and productivity of various crops including foodgrains in India as compared to other countries are pre-dominantly rainfed agriculture & inefficient use of irrigation resources, fragmented land holdings, shorter crop growth period due to latitudinal and seasonal differences, improper nutrient & pest management, low use of good quality seeds, lack of adequate machinery and low adoption of improved package of practices, etc.

(d): In order to enhance production and productivity of various agricultural crops including foodgrains in the country, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is having research programmes in different crops in 24 commodity/theme based research institutes. These institutes undertake basic and strategic research programmes related to crop improvement, crop production and protection technologies in different crops. The technical information so developed is used by 31 crop related All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) to develop location specific varieties and technologies for different agro-ecological needs to enhance production and productivity. Improved varieties/hybrids of major crops such as rice, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, pulses etc. have been released to ensure supply of quality seed to farmers. These varieties and hybrids are being promoted through Front Line Demonstrations and other promotion programmes/schemes through State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). Besides, integrated nutrient, water and weed management strategies have been developed by Crop Institutes of ICAR to meet location specific requirements to achieve higher productivity.