

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3542
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013
DRY LAND FARMING
Vishwanath Shri katti Ramesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of crops and the area under dry land farming during each of the last three years and the current year, Statewise;
- (b) whether technologies/methods for appropriate treatment of land for conservation of moisture exists in the country to boost dry land farming;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to boost production in rainfed/ dry land areas?

Answer

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

(a): Ministry of Agriculture does not maintain separate crop production data for irrigated and dryland/rainfed areas. As per available estimates, major rainfed/dryland crops and their percentage coverage under dryland/rainfed conditions are: rice (42%), jowar (91%), bajara (91%), maize (61%), gram (68%), tur (95%), groundnut (76%) and soyabean (99%). Production of major rainfed / dryland crops and area coverage during last 3 years (2009-10 to 2011-12) and current year (2012-13) are in Annexure I (A-C).

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. Details of technologies developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for conservation of moisture are at Annexure II.

(d): International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has developed and tested different in-situ and ex-situ conservation technologies at watershed scale for different rainfall regions in the country. These include low cost water harvesting structures and in-situ bunding systems for effective water management. These practices minimize land degradation, improve soil health and increase soil moisture availability and ground water recharge. Similarly the construction of gully control structures, earthen check dams, etc. across the stream channel helps to reduce the peak discharge, prevention of gully formation and harvest substantial amount of runoff and also increase ground water recharge.

ICRISAT has also developed an innovative watershed development model as well as soil-test based nutrient management strategies as an entry point to enhance agricultural productivity. This has been tested in the states of Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh. In Karnataka Bhoochetana mission mode programme resulted in increase of crop yields ranging from 20 to 50 percent during last four years.