

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4604
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
WATER MANAGEMENT FOR CROPS
Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Water Technology Centre, New Delhi under the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has conducted any study on efficient use of water for crops/ crop water management;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether suggestions have been received from various bodies for promoting farming of crops that requires less water and instruments/technology helpful in retaining moisture;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any proposal for promoting innovation in this field; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the incentives proposed to be given for promoting the said innovation?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Irrigation requirements and irrigation scheduling criteria of important cereals, pulses and oilseed crops have been worked out for conditions of adequate, limited and excess water supply and under high water table conditions. Studies conducted with different vegetable crops (Tomato, Potato, Onion, Garlic, Cabbage, Baby Corn, Groundnut, Lettuce, Sweet Pepper etc.) under micro-irrigation and fertigation revealed an average water saving of about 30-60% .

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The use of micro irrigation system like drip, sprinklers, micro sprinklers along with organic mulching, black polythene mulching, vermicomposting, resource conservation technologies and crop diversification have the potential for promoting farming of crops with less water. The technology of Pusa Hydrogel has also been developed which enhances moisture retention in soils.

(e) & (f): Yes Madam. The Government of India is implementing National Mission on Micro Irrigation under which incentive to farmers is being provided for adopting innovative water saving technologies like drip, sprinkler irrigation.