

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:860

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

SETTING UP OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether under the Indo-Israel agriculture cooperation pact of 2008, Israel has plans to set up various centres of excellence for floriculture, fruits and vegetables in 10 Indian States by 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the benefit that India is likely to get from this move; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Union Government to have agricultural cooperation with different countries to promote agriculture research and increase agriculture production in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): As part of Indo-Israel work plan (2006) an Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan was implemented during 2008-2010 which was subsequently extended for implementation till 2015. Under this Action Plan Centres of Excellence for fruits, vegetables and flowers are set up with the technical support of Israeli experts in the States of Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The Centres of Excellence will demonstrate latest technologies for increasing the production and productivity of horticulture crops in the country.

(d): Government of India has signed MoUs/Agreements with 55 countries for cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors. Activities under these agreements inter-alia include cooperation in agriculture research and enhancing agriculture productivity amongst others.