GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1939
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013
AREA UNDER HYBRID RICE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hybrid rice has the potential to raise rice yields significantly to the order of 20-30% relative to local varieties;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set any target to increase the area under hybrids to 25% of the total rice area by 2015 as against the present 7% of rice area under hybrids;

(c) whether at present over half of the rice area in China is under hybrid rice resulting in improved food security for over an estimated 60 million people per year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) At present, the hybrid rice has the potential to raise rice yields at least 15-20% over the high yielding varieties. However, super rice hybrids can yield up to 20-30 percent more than the varietal checks as has been shown in China.

(b) No target has been fixed by Government of India (GOI) to increase the area under hybrid rice to 25 percent of the total rice area by 2015.

(c) Yes, Madam. In China, more than half of the rice area is under hybrid rice.

(d) In China, the hybrid rice is cultivated in an area of around 16 million hectares of the total rice area of 29 million hectares (approximately more than 50 percent area) and they are able to produce more rice by adopting the hybrid rice technology in a bigger way.

Based on the success of hybrid rice in China, GOI initiated the programme on hybrid rice development in India and is promoting its cultivation through various schemes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI).

During XII plan, research on hybrid rice is being strengthened by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through a special consortia research project on Hybrid Crops.