

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1875

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009

PULSES PRODUCTION

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

- (a) whether India is the largest producer and importer of pulses in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the per acre produce of pulses in the country is very less and is stagnating;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of pulse production per acre in the country and the reasons for less yield alongwith the comparative data of per acre pulse production of pulses in other countries including steps taken to increase per capita availability of pulses in the country;
- (f) whether in a recent study by the Tata Management Group has revealed that the country can increase pulse production by adopting better cultivation practices; and
- (g) if so, the details of the findings of the said study alongwith the reaction of the Government thereon including steps taken to remove the stagnation in the pulse production?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The details of production of pulses in the country vis-a-vis major pulse growing countries in the world is given below:

**1. Production of pulses  
(Production 000 MT)**

Sl.	No	Countries	Years				
			2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
1	India		13129.5	13384.4	14197.5	14761.5	
2	France		2091.0	1754.0	1347.0	890.50	
3	USA		1559.0	2171.0	2082.0	2104.49	
4	Canada		4298.0	4590.0	3701.0	4181.10	
5	China		4925.0	5232.0	5548.0	3777.00	

**2. Import of pulses**

year	Quantity	Value
	(in million tones)	(Rs.in corers)

2004-05	1.339	1777.58
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2005-06	1.695	2476.25
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2006-07	2.270	3891.91
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2007-08	2.791	5278.02
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(c): Yes, Madam. Per acre produce of pulses in the country is less compared to other major producers. However, the productivity is steadily increasing.

(d) & (e): The pulses production in the country during 2007-08 is 625 Kg/ha. The main reasons for less productivity of pulses in the country includes;

- (i) The pulses are grown on the marginal and sub marginal lands of the farmers and about 85% of the pulses, grown both during Kharif and rabi , are rainfed. Pulse crops are mainly grown by the resource poor small and marginal farmers of the country,
- (ii) Inadequate seed availability and low seed Replacement Rate,
- (iii) Minimum input application,
- (iv) High incidence of pests and diseases,
- (v) Poor crop management,
- (vi) Inadequate transfer of technology programme
- (vii) Poor storage, processing and marketing facilities,
- (viii) Crop damage due to blue bull,
- (ix) Lack of incentives to the farmers for cultivation,
- (x) Pulses are genetically low yielding and less input responsive as compared to other cereals and oilseeds,
- (xi) Lack of proper marketing infrastructure and high fluctuating price which leads to uncertainty in economic returns.

The comparative data of per ha pulse production achieved in other pulse producing countries is indicated here under:

Yield Kg/ha

Sl.

No	Countries	Years		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08

1	India	577	598	612	625
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2	France	4555	3995	3454	3711
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3	USA	1812	1884	1721	1908
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4	Canada	2016	1998	1808	1804
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5	China	1532	1580	1644	1752
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(f) & (g): Tata Strategic Management Group published an article in this regards in the Business standard on September 24 , 2009. The Group has suggested some measures like Market development and ensuring profitability, encouraging production of pulses in rice fallow and intercropping, use of HYVs and improving seed replacement rate, proper pest and nutrient management, provision of schedule and controlled irrigation and prevention of post harvest losses.

Most of the suggested measures are already included in the Centrally Sponsored Pulses Development Programme. At present two centrally sponsored schemes namely ISOPOM and National Food Security Mission-pulses programme are being implemented in 14 major pulses growing states for increasing the pulses production in the country. Moreover, pulses development programme in non-NFSM/ISOPOM states/ districts is also being implemented under (revised)Macro Management mode of Agriculture(MMA) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna(RKVVY).

Under these schemes assistance is being provided to farmers for purchase of Breeder seed, production of foundation & certified seed, distribution of certified seeds, Integrated nutrient management including gypsum, lime, micronutrients & Biofertilizers integrated

pest management for management of diseases and pests, incentive for distribution of farm machinery including seed drills, multi crop planters, rotavators, water lifting and moisture saving devices, transfer of technology through demonstration & Training, Contract Research for development of recent crop production technology including varietal development and assistance for Pilot project on tackling the menace of Blue bull (Neel Gai) is also provided under NFSM pulses.