

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:79

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015

Hybrid Seeds Varieties

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed seeds of hybrid rice to improve output and address food security needs of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to encourage farmers to grow hybrid rice and also develop uniform subsidy model across the rice growing States;
- (c) whether the National Bureau of Plants Genetic Resources (NBPGR) has characterised over 500 varieties of Rice, wheat, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables germ plasma to develop better seed varieties that could withstand climate change; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Yes, Madam. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research in active collaboration with State Agricultural Universities and private seed sector has developed 72 rice hybrids suitable for cultivation in different ecologies to enhance the productivity and production of rice in the country.

(b) These hybrids along with improved production technologies are promoted through schemes like Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in the country. Under NFSM and BGREI assistance for organizing cluster demonstrations on hybrid rice and distribution of hybrid rice seeds is provided. Besides, assistance is also provided for the production of hybrid rice seeds in BGREI programme.

(c) & (d): The National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) has characterized over 70,000 accessions of different crops namely, rice, wheat, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables for various agro-morphological traits. Evaluation of a core set of 3200 accessions of wheat led to identification of 42 promising lines for terminal heat tolerance. The multilocation evaluation of 442 germplasm accessions of chickpea has resulted in the identification of 77 cold and 12 drought tolerance accessions.
