GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1335
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015
Bt. Cotton
Chandel Kunwar Pushpendra Singh;Marutharajaa Shri R.P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the adverse impact of GM crops on eco-system and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of production and area under cultivation of Bt. cotton during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to improve agricultural production in drought affected and less fertile land?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam. A two year study on feeding goats with Bt cotton leaves during 2007-09 and field trials with GM cotton did not reveal any adverse effect on overall health of animals, insect predators, parasitoids and soil microbial diversity.

(b) The details of total area and production under Bt cotton cultivation in different states are provided in Annexure I and II.

(c) High Density Planting Systems (HDPS) technology with semi-compact, early maturing cotton varieties like AKH 081 (PKV 081), NH 615, Suraj, Anjali, KC3 (G. hirsutum) and AKA7, JK5, HD123 (G. arboreum) have been developed for realizing high yield in marginal soil and rainfed region, especially in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur in collaboration with Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad and National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning, Nagpur has prepared 'Cotton Action Plan 2014' encompassing good cotton growing practices recommended for different cotton growing states in the country.

The technologies for drought affected and less fertile land such as soil and water conservation, micro-irrigation, efficient rain water harvesting, specific crop planning including intercropping, farming systems, green manuring, integrated nutrient and pest management are being demonstrated and disseminated through National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture in 130 villages of the most vulnerable districts of the country. Multilingual district wise weekly advisories are being issued for maintenance of healthy crop to realize high yields.
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