

Title: Need to take over Fruit Research Stations in Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh.

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY (TIRUPATI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh comprising of Chittoor, Ananthapur, Cuddapah and Kurnool districts, is a drought prone area. To support the farmers of this region economically, the erstwhile Madras Presidency started Zonal Fruit Research Station at Anantharajupet, Kodur, Cuddapah district in 1935. Because of this institute, lakhs of farmers are surviving with the orchards though the rainfall is very meagre.

Due to paucity of funds, this institute is almost in withering condition.

I request the Minister of Agriculture to consider taking this institute, Fruit Research Station (RARS), Anantharajupet, Kodur, Acharaya N.G. Ranga Agriculture University, A.P. into ICAR fold in the next plan by making it a Southern Branch of Central Institute of Sub-Tropical Horticulture, Rehmankhera, Kakori, Lucknow or Southern Branch of Institute of Arid Fruit Research Station, Bikaner, Rajasthan.

This is the only way to rejuvenate this oldest Fruit Research Institute so that invaluable Germplasm in the institute and the farmers are saved both in Rayalaseema, Andhra Pradesh and the whole of Southern States.