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Title: Need to open selling centres for maize in Karnataka.

SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA (KOPPAL): Respected Madam Speaker. Thank you very much for giving me the time to speak on this important topic of national interest.

Madam, maize is a highly produced cereal in the State of Karnataka. There is an increasing trend of producing maize in that area. It is grown in all the three seasons in an area of about 9,36,000 hectares with an annual production of 7,30,000 tonnes.

Though the major area is under kharif cultivation with hybrids, the major impediments in boosting productivity are non-availability of high yielding single cross hybrid seed and susceptibility to downy mildew disease. Suitable interventions for it are – growing of early maturing hybrids DMH 1, DMH 2 and Prakash; use of resistant variety NAC 6002 and NAC 6004 and seed treatment with metalaxyl @ 2g/kg seed to control downy mildew.

It is well understood that maize is mostly not consumed directly. Thereby, it is required to set up maize based industries in Karnataka, which further boost the demand for it and maize growers may feel motivated to grow it more.

Madam, in view of the above, I request the hon. Ministers of Agriculture and Food and Public Distribution to kindly look into this matter.

Thank you, Madam.