



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL  
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING**

**(2024-25)**

**EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)  
(DEMAND NO. 2)**

**EIGHTH REPORT**



*LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT*

**NEW DELHI**

**MARCH, 2025/ PHALGUNA, 1946 (Saka)**

## **EIGHTH REPORT**

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#### **DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26) (DEMAND NO. 2)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on	12.03.2025
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on	12.03.2025



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

**MARCH, 2025/ PHALGUNA, 1946 (Saka)**

**COA No. 507**

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## COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2024-25)

Shri Charanjit Singh Channi – Chairperson

### LOK SABHA

2. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai
3. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
4. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
5. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
6. Shri Kuldeep Indora
7. Shri Rajpalsinh Mahendrasinh Jadav
8. Md. Abu Taher Khan
9. Shri Rahul Singh Lodhi
10. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
11. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
12. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
13. Shri Narayan Tatu Rane
14. Shri Murasoli S.
15. Shri Dharambir Singh
16. Shri Dushyant Singh
17. Shri Sudhakar Singh
18. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
19. Shri Tejasvi Surya
20. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor
21. Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure

### RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Ramlaben Becharbhai Bara
23. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
24. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
25. Shri S. Kalyanasundaram
26. Shri Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav Patil
27. Shri Madan Rathore
28. Shri Ramji Lal Suman
29. Shri P. P. Suneer
30. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala
31. Vacant\*

\* Vacant *vice* Shri Krishan Lal Panwar resigned from Rajya Sabha on 14.10.2024.

## **SECRETARIAT**

- |                           |   |                  |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Shri Srinivasulu Gunda | — | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. Shri Khakhai Zou       | — | Director         |
| 3. Shri Prem Ranjan       | — | Deputy Secretary |

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eighth Report on the Demands for Grants (2025-2026) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

2. The Committee under Rule 331E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha considered the Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education), which were laid on the Table of the House on 11 February, 2025.

3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) at their sitting held on 20 February, 2025. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 10 March, 2025.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Part-II of the Report.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the information that they desired in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants of the Department.

**NEW DELHI;  
11 March, 2025**

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**20 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)**

**CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI  
Chairperson,**

***Standing Committee on Agriculture,  
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing.***

**REPORT**  
**PART- I**  
**CHAPTER - I**

**Introductory**

1.1. The Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) was established in the Ministry of Agriculture in December 1973. DARE coordinates and promotes Agricultural Research and Education in the country.

**Mandate of DARE**

- i. Fundamental, applied and operational research and higher education including coordination of such research and higher education.
- ii. Coordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education or research and scientific and technical institutions.
- iii. International cooperation and assistance in the field of agricultural research and education including relations with foreign and international agricultural research and education institutions and organizations.

It has the following four autonomous bodies under its administrative control:

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi
- Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar
- Rani Laxmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

1.2 The DARE provides the necessary government linkages for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the premier research Organisation for coordinating, guiding and managing research, education and extension in Agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country. Besides, it has Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB) as an Attached Office and Agrinnovate India Limited (AgIn), a Government of India enterprise under its control.



1.3 The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an apex scientific research Organization for planning, promotion, execution and coordination of agriculture research and education in the country. Formerly known as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, it was established on 16 July, 1929 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 on the recommendations of the Royal Commission of Agriculture. It was reorganized in 1965 and again in 1973, with its Headquarters located in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi with support facilities in Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan 1 and 2 and NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi. It functions at a national level through networks of institutes, projects (All-India Coordinated/ Networks) under five sectors comprising of eight Subject Matter Divisions and has linkages with State Agriculture Universities and other Departments of the Central and State Governments.

### **Organizational Set up of ICAR**

1.4 The ICAR, as a vibrant organization, continues to generate technologies for sustainable development of Agriculture. The ICAR is the guiding and monitoring entity of the country for National Agriculture Research System (NARS) consisting of 103 ICAR Research and Education Institutes, 76 Agricultural Universities and 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras spread across the country having responsibility of developing technologies in various fields of agriculture and allied sectors.

There are eight Subject Matter Divisions, viz. i) Crop Science, ii) Natural Resources Management iii) Horticultural Science, iv) Animal Science, v) Fisheries Science, vi) Agricultural Engineering vii) Agricultural Education, and viii) Agricultural Extension and they are entrusted with the overall responsibility for the preparation, scrutiny, review, and technical supervision and guidance of the research schemes, educational and extension programs and projects within their respective disciplines.

### **Mandate of ICAR:**

- Plan, Undertake, Coordinate and Promote Research and Technology Development for Sustainable Agriculture.
- Aid, Impart and Coordinate Agricultural Education to enable Quality Human Resource Development.

- Frontline Extension for technology application, adoption, knowledge management and capacity development for agri-based rural development.
- Policy, Cooperation and Consultancy in Agricultural Research, Education and Extension.

## Goal of ICAR

1.5 The goal of ICAR is to promote sustainable and inclusive agricultural growth and development in the country by interfacing education, research and extension initiatives complemented with efficient and effective institutional, infrastructure and policy support, for ensuring livelihood and environmental security.

ICAR has rationalized its earlier Schemes into 8 Schemes. The list of the Schemes is as follows:

Sl. No	Central Sector Schemes
	Scheme
1.	Natural Resource Management
2.	Agriculture Production and Post-Production Mechanisation Augmented with Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture Development (Agricultural Engineering)
3.	Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security
4.	Technology based support in improvement and management of horticulture crops towards enhanced and sustainable productivity for nutritional security (Horticultural Science)
5.	Research, Education and Technology Development for Sustainable Livestock Health and Production towards Nutritional Security (Animal Science)
6.	Fisheries and Aquaculture for Sustainable Development
7.	Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)
8.	Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management & Social Sciences

1.6 The DARE along with ICAR has played a pivotal role in making agriculture sustainable through use of eco-friendly management and innovative technologies which helped the country to enhance the production of food grains, horticultural crops, milk, fish and eggs. This has enabled the nation not only to be food and nutrition secure but also improved livelihood of the farmers.

## A. Summary of Demand for Grant

1.7 Department of Agricultural Research and Education has been allocated Rs.10466.39 Crore for financial year 2025-26 under Demand No.2 presented to the Lok Sabha on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. Allocation of Funds to the Department under different Heads of Account alongwith Actuals for 2023-24 and BE and RE for 2024-25 are as follows:-

			Revenue	Capital	Total	(In ₹ Crore)
Charged :			...	...	...	
Voted :			10462.06	4.33	10466.39	
	Major Head		2023-2024 Actuals	2024-2025 Budget Estimates	2024-2025 Revised Estimates	2025-2026 Budget Estimates
<b>REVENUE SECTION</b>						
	Secretariat-Economic Services	3451	24.08	43.98	28.49	35.02
	Agricultural Research and Education	2415	9776.92	9303.22	9513.56	9772.86
Charged:			4.00	...	...	...
Voted:			9772.92	9303.22	9513.56	9772.86
	North Eastern Areas	2552	...	587.39	610.48	654.18
<b>Total-Revenue Section</b>			<b>9801.00</b>	<b>9934.59</b>	<b>10152.53</b>	<b>10462.06</b>
Charged :			4.00	...	...	...
Voted :			9797.00	9934.59	10152.53	10462.06
<b>CAPITAL SECTION</b>						
	Capital Outlay on Other General Economic Services	5475	3.39	6.50	3.82	4.33
<b>Total-Capital Section</b>			3.39	6.50	3.82	4.33
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>9804.39</b>	<b>9941.09</b>	<b>10156.53</b>	<b>10466.39</b>
Charged :			4.00	...	...	...
Voted :			9800.39	9941.09	10156.35	10466.39
Note: The above estimates do not include the recoveries shown below which are adjusted in reduction of expenditure						
<b>Revenue Section</b>						
	Agricultural Research and Education	2415	-13.48	...	...	...
	Secretariat-Economic Services	3451	-0.13	...	...	...
<b>Total-Revenue Section</b>			<b>-13.61</b>	...	...	...
The expenditure provisions, net of the above recoveries, will be as under:						
	Revenue		9787.39	9934.59	10152.53	10462.06
	Capital		3.39	6.50	3.82	4.33
	<b>Total</b>		<b>9790.78</b>	<b>9941.09</b>	<b>10156.35</b>	<b>10466.39</b>

1.8 Rs. 6.50 crore was allocated in BE 2024-25 under 'Capital Section' which was reduced to 3.82 crore in RE. On being asked about the utilization status of this fund, the Department stated:-

“For Departmental Head Quarter & Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board (ASRB), an attached office of this Department:

(Rs in crores)			
Object Head	Accounting Head	RE 2024-25	Utilized Amount*
Machinery and Equipment	547500001010652	0.06	0.05
Information, Computer, Tele (ICT)	547500001010671	0.18	0.12
Furnitures and Fixtures	547500001010674	0.04	0.00
Machinery & Equipment	547500001020252	0.14	0.16
Information, Computer, Tele (ICT)	547500001020271	0.90	0.18
Buildings & Structures	547500001020272	2.00	1.50
Furniture & Fixtures	547500001020274	0.45	0.02
Other Fixed Assets	547500001020277	0.05	0.01
Total		3.82	2.05

”

1.9 When the Committee asked about the reasons for less allocation (Rs. 4.33 Crore) under 'Capital Head' in BE 2025-26 as compared to BE 2024-25 (Rs. 6.50 crore), the Department stated:

“New building for Agricultural Scientist Recruitment (ASRB) was under construction with allied infrastructure. Now, the building is completed and ASRB has shifted to the new building. Payments under Capital Section for the same are being paid in the current Financial Year. Less allocation in Capital Head in BE 2025-26 as compared to BE 2024-25 is due to less requirement of Capital Budget of Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board as most of the requirement has been or will be met out in the current Financial Year 2024-25.”

1.10 When the Committee asked how Rs. 4.33 crore allocated in BE 2025-26 under 'Capital Head' is going to be spent during the financial year 2025-26, the Department stated:

“For Departmental Head Quarter & Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board (ASRB), an attached office of this Department:

(Rs in crore)

Object Head	Accounting Head	Proposed expenditure in BE 2025-26
Machinery and Equipment	547500001010652	0.08
Information, Computer, Tele (ICT)	547500001010671	0.25
Furnitures and Fixtures	547500001010674	0.06
Machinery & Equipment	547500001020252	0.16
Information, Computer, Tele (ICT)	547500001020271	0.80
Buildings & Structures	547500001020272	2.40
Furniture & Fixtures	547500001020274	0.50
Other Fixed Assets	547500001020277	0.08
<b>Total</b>		<b>4.33</b>

”

1.11 The Head-wise Budget Estimates for 2025-26 of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education are:

(Rs in crore)

Major Head	Budget Estimates
<b>Central Sector Schemes</b>	
Natural Resource Management + NICRA	229.09
Agricultural Engineering	95.74
Crop Science	965.46
Horticulture	318.91
Animal Science	504.04
Fisheries Science	192.81
Agricultural Extension	204.23
Agricultural Universities and Institutions	708.94
<b>Total Central Schemes</b>	<b>3219.22</b>
<b>Non-Scheme (Establishment)</b>	
DARE Secretariat + ASRB	47.17
ICAR Headquarter	6425.83
Central Agricultural Universities	774.17
National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (DARE-NAAS & IAUA)	0.00
<b>Total Non-Scheme (Establishment)</b>	<b>7247.17</b>
<b>Grand Total (Scheme + Non-Scheme)</b>	<b>10466.39</b>

1.12 When the Committee asked whether the funds allocated in BE 2025-26 are sufficient to meet the requirements of the Department for fiscal year 2025-26, the Department stated:

“The allocation made by Ministry of Finance for BE 2025-26 is Rs.10466.39 crore only. However, the Department has proposed a demand of Rs.11253.07 crore while submitting its BE proposal to MoF. Further, the Scheme Budget was proposed at Rs 3237.09 crores. The allocations made by Ministry of Finance for Scheme Budget is Rs 3219.22 crores. This will impact the schemes and

programmes planned by various SMDs and overall working of Research Institutes. However, Department is making concerted efforts toward optimum utilization of available resources to achieve its desired goal and objectives”

1.13 Further on being asked to furnish any other suggestions / information to the Committee in connection with examination of Demands for Grants (2025-26), the Department submitted:

“Budget allocation of the Department is required to be enhanced to the tune of 1% of Agri-GDP to address the priority and challenging issues of agriculture through Agricultural Research, Education and Extension”

## **B. An Analysis of Demand No. 2**

1.14 The Sector-wise Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure (upto December 2024) for the year 2024-25 and Budget Estimates for the year 2025-26 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)				
Major Head	Budget Estimates (2024-25)	Revised Estimates (2024-25)	Expenditure (upto December 2024)	Budget Estimates 2025-26
<b>Central Sector Schemes</b>				
Natural Resource Management + NICRA	252.16	252.16	150.67	229.09
Agricultural Engineering	91.24	91.24	48.93	95.74
Crop Science	930.22	930.22	466.91	965.46
Horticulture	257.07	257.07	144.42	318.91
Animal Science	415.15	415.15	217.51	504.04
Fisheries Science	200.92	200.92	165.62	192.81
Agriculture Extension	234.89	234.89	154.09	204.23
Agricultural Universities and Institutions	398.74	630.17	187.41	708.94
<b>Total Central Sector Schemes</b>	<b>2780.39</b>	<b>3011.82</b>	<b>1535.60</b>	<b>3219.22</b>
<b>Non-Scheme (Establishment)</b>				
DARE Secretariat + ASRB	58.14	39.97	19.98	47.17
ICAR Headquarter	6378.70	6370.70	4993.52	6425.83
Central Agricultural Universities	723.55	733.55	542.66	774.17
National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (DARE-NAAS & IAUA)	0.31	0.31	0.15	0.00
<b>Total Non-Scheme (Establishment)</b>	<b>7160.70</b>	<b>7144.53</b>	<b>5556.31</b>	<b>7247.17</b>
<b>Grand Total (Scheme + Non-Scheme)</b>	<b>9941.09</b>	<b>10156.35</b>	<b>7091.91</b>	<b>10466.39</b>

1.15 According to the Department the BE and RE proposed by the Department and allocations made by Ministry of Finance since the year 2020-21 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)				
Year	BE Proposed	BE allocated	RE Proposed	RE allocated
2020-21	10650.17	8362.52	8397.71	7762.38
2021-22	10241.68	8513.62	9330.53	8513.62
2022-23	9698.91	8513.62	9943.07	8658.89
2023-24	10390.53	9504.00	10665.71	9876.60
2024-25	11173.21	9941.09	10435.25	10156.35
2025-26	11253.07	10466.39	-	-

“As per the information shown in the table above, it is submitted that Department has been seeking enhanced budget allocations to Ministry of Finance during past previous years. Also, Department has submitted proposal for the current financial year in the UBIS Module of Ministry of Finance (MoF) for increasing the Scheme budget of DARE as per the EFC provisions as well as Non-Scheme budget allocation. The higher authorities of the Department have also expressed the need of additional funds before the Ministry of Finance during the pre-budget meeting held for finalization of expenditure ceilings. Further, on different occasions and platforms, Department have made sincere efforts to impress upon the MoF for enhancing the budget allocation”.

1.16 The Department has stated that the proportion (in % terms) of Budgetary Allocation (Budget Estimates) made in favour of the Department out of the total Budget of the Government of India since the Financial Year 2020-21 are:

Year	Outlay (BE) Rs. Crore	Total Outlay (BE) of Gol (Rs. in Crore)*	% of the Total Outlay
<b>2020-21</b>	8362.58	3042230.00	0.27%
<b>2021-22</b>	8513.62	3483236.00	0.24%
<b>2022-23</b>	8513.62	3944909.00	0.22%
<b>2023-24</b>	9504.00	4503097.00	0.21%
<b>2024-25</b>	9941.09	4820512.00	0.21%
<b>2025-26</b>	10466.39	5065000.00	0.21%

\* As per data of PIB (Press Information Bureau) Website

1.17 As per the information furnished by the Department the proportion (in % terms) of Budgetary Allocation (Revised Estimates) made in favour of the Department out of the Total Budget of the Government of India since the year 2020-21 are as under:-

Year	Outlay (RE) (In Rs. Crore)	Total Outlay (RE) (in Rs. Crore)	% of the Total Outlay
2020-21	7762.38	3450305.00	0.22
2021-22	8513.62	3770000.00	0.23
2022-23	8658.89	4187232.35	0.21
2023-24	9876.60	4490485.57	0.22
2024-25	10156.35		

1.18 On being asked about the adequacy of funds as allocated in RE 2024-25, the Department stated:

“The actual budget allocation made by MoF in RE 2024-25 is Rs. 10156.35 crores against the proposed RE of Rs 10435.25 crores by the Department. The reduction in the budget allocation is primarily on account of the Non-Scheme budget of the Department for the CFY 2024-25. As a result of such reduction under Non-Scheme budget, Department has faced challenges towards carrying out its administrative and maintenance activities. However, Department is making concerted efforts to ensure optimum utilization of available resources towards meeting the objectives of these programmes in an effective manner”.

“The Department has apprised the Committee that the Expenditure for the Financial Year 2024-25 is Rs.8940.54 Crore upto 31.01.2025 against the RE 2024-25 allocation of Rs.10156.35 Crore. The Department will make efforts and strive to utilize the allocated fund by the end of the Financial Year 2024-25”.

1.19 When the Committee asked whether the Department faced any financial difficulty / constraint in discharging of its responsibility/function during the year 2024-25, the Department stated:

“MoF has sanctioned the proposed budget allocation of Rs 3011.82 crores under Scheme Budget as per the proposal submitted by the Department. However, against the proposed Non-Scheme budget allocation of Rs.7423.43 crores, MoF has sanctioned reduced budget ceilings of Rs.7144.53 crores under Non-Scheme RE



2024-25, which is Rs.278.90 crores lower as compared to the RE proposed by the Department. As a result of reduced budget allocation under Non-Scheme, administrative and maintenance activities were adversely affected. Department has made concerted efforts to ensure optimum utilization of available resources towards meeting the objectives of these programmes in an effective manner.”

1.20 During the Study Visit of the Committee in January 2025, the Committee have been apprised that the Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair) was established in 1978 and most of the buildings are very old and due to the inclement weather conditions and earthquakes prone area prevailing in these islands, repairs and renovations need to be carried out at regular intervals. In this regard, an one-time Special Grant may be provided for the major renovations and repair of the laboratories, office and residential buildings.

1.21 When the Committee asked whether the Department agrees with the demand of the Institute and if so, what steps are being taken / contemplated in this direction, the Department stated:

“Funds for repair and maintenance for ICAR-CIARI have been allocated for period 2021-26. The need/demand-based requests are considered during respective annual plan period under corpus fund schemes. A one-time catch-up grant for building related infrastructure will be included during 2026-31 plan period.”

### **C. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

1.22 The Year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) of the Department since 2020-21 are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)				
Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	% Utilization of RE
2020-21	8362.58	7762.38	7685.52	99.01
2021-22	8513.62	8513.62	8439.94	99.13%
2022-23	8513.62	8658.89	8374.15	96.71%
2023-24	9504.00	9876.60	9804.39	99.27%
2024-25	9941.09	10156.35	8940.54*	88.03%*
2025-26	10466.39	-	-	-

\* As on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

The Department has also stated that it has to adhere to the expenditure ceilings for the last quarter as laid down by the Department of Economic Affairs. Necessary instructions in this regard are also reiterated time and again to all spending units by the Department to follow the instructions diligently.

#### **D. ALLOCATION UNDER SCHEME HEAD**

1.23 The Year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) under Schemes Head since the year 2020-21 are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)			
Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2020-21	2729.00	2305.00	2194.98
2021-22	2686.00	2347.00	2244.49
2022-23	1995.83	1995.61	1966.48
2023-24	2423.41	2574.36	2530.33
2024-25	2780.39	3011.82	2085.30*
2025-26	3219.22	-	-

Upto 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025.

1.24 On being asked about the adequacy of funds as allocated in BE 2025-26 under Scheme Head, the Department stated that the allocation of BE 2025-26 has been sanctioned as per the approved EFC budget outlay by the Cabinet in respect of the Department.

1.25 When asked how the Department is planning to utilize the increased allocation under the Scheme Head in BE 2025-26 in comparison to BE and RE 2024-25, the Department stated:

“The increase in Scheme Budget allocation 2025-26 over BE 2024-25 and RE 2024-25 will be utilized as per provision made in EFC/SFC duly approved by Cabinet for various scientific programmes and research activities of the Department. The detail of Central Sector Scheme wise budget allocation is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)				
S. No.	Central Sector Scheme	BE 2024-25	RE 2024-25	BE 2025-26
1	Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security	930.22	930.22	965.46
2	Technology Based Support in Improvement and Management of Horticulture Crops Towards Enhanced and Sustainable Productivity for Nutritional Security	257.07	257.07	318.91

	(Horticultural Science)			
3	Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)	234.89	234.89	204.23
4	Strengthening Agricultural Education Management and Social Science	398.74	630.17	708.94
5	Agricultural Production and Post Production Mechanization Augmented with Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture Development	91.24	91.24	95.74
6	Natural Resource Management (AGRI R AND E)	252.16	252.16	229.09
7	Research Education and Technology Development for Sustainable Livestock Health and Production towards Nutritional Security	415.15	415.15	504.04
8	Fisheries and Aquaculture for Sustainable Development	200.92	200.92	192.81
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2780.39</b>	<b>3011.82</b>	<b>3219.22</b>

#### **E. ALLOCATION UNDER NON-SCHEME HEAD**

1.26 The Year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) under Non- Scheme head are as follow:

(Rs. in Crore)

<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>
2020-21	5633.58	5457.38	5449.27
2021-22	5827.62	6166.62	6116.81
2022-23	6517.79	6663.28	6588.78
2023-24	7080.59	7302.24	7271.79
*2024-25	7160.70	7144.55	7273.85
2025-26	7247.17	-	-

1.27 On being asked about the utilization of allocated funds under Non-Scheme Head during the financial year 2024-25, the Department stated:

“The Department utilized Rs.6855.24 Crore under Non-Scheme Head upto 31.01.2025 as per records of Pr.AO out of the allocated RE 2024-25 of Rs.7144.55 Crore”.

## **F. REVENUE RECEIPTS**

1.28 According to the information furnished by the Department, the revenue generation target and achievement in respect of ICAR for the previous years are shown as under:

(Rs. in Crore)		
Year	Target	Achievement
2020-21	91.675	72.37
2021-22	76.00	73.16
2022-23	78.96	75.15
2023-24	84.91	91.63
2024-25*	106.50	-
2025-26**		

\* Actual achievement of revenue generation target for the year 2024-25 will be prepared after completion of CFY."

\*\* Targets & achievement for 2025-26 will be complied during subsequent financial year.

1.29 On being asked about the details of fee received by all Institutions of ICAR for Consultancy / Training Services provided to other Organizations and utilization of revenue generated during the last five Fiscal years, the Department stated:

"The details of utilization of revenue generated by DARE / ICAR Institutes during the last five financial years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Revenue generated from Consultancy Services and Training Programme
2019-20	7.31
2020-21	5.00
2021-22	5.07
2022-23	6.25
2023-24	8.42

The details of utilization out of revenue generated for the last five years are given as under:

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Utilization of revenue
2019-20	14.58
2020-21	0.86
2021-22	62.79
2022-23	0.00
2023-24	76.77

## CHAPTER – II

### **ANALYSIS OF SECTORAL SCHEMES**

#### **A. Natural Resources Management and National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)**

2.1. The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE), under the head of Natural Resources Management and National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) Division since the year 2020-21 are as follows:-

(In Rs. Crore)			
Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2020-21	226.00	223.21	204.17
2021-22	250.00	215.00	211.67
2022-23	185.77	185.77	182.14
2023-24	240.00	239.98	239.97
2024-25	252.16	252.16	-
2025-26	229.09	-	-

2.2 On being asked about the details of utilization of funds for the financial year 2024-25 under this division and the steps taken by the Department for optimum utilization of the allocated funds, the Department stated:

“The Division has utilized 73.20% of the allocated funds and has plan to fully utilize allocated funds by the end of the financial year 2024-2025”.

“In order to ensure optimum utilization of the allocated funds, the regular monitoring is done by Secretary (DARE) & Director General ICAR along with Additional Secretary (DARE/ICAR) and Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor (DARE/ICAR) during the monthly senior officer’s committee meetings. Based on the comments / inputs, DDG (NRM) conducts follow up meetings with the institute Directors and Financial Officers. Further, DDG (NRM) periodically reviews the

funds utilization of the subordinate institutes to ensure the optimum utilization of the allocated funds”.

2.3 When the Committee asked about the reasons for decrease in allocation in BE 2025-26 vis-a-vis RE 2024-25, the Department stated:

“The Division sought allocation based upon its planned programmes and research activities for the schemes. However, allocation in BE 2025-26 (Rs. 229.09 Crore) was approved by the cabinet secretariat which is less than the RE 2024-25”.

2.4 One being asked regarding shift in Agricultural Activities observed in the country due to change in climatic pattern or weather fluctuation and efforts made by the Department during the last five years for soil conservation and enhancing water holding capacity to enhance resilience for soil towards climate variability in the country, the Department in its reply has submitted the following:

“The ICAR under NICRA assessed the vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to climate change, placed agricultural contingency plans of 650 agriculturally predominant districts to sensitize developmental departments for climate sensitization, preparedness and adaption of real time measures. Since the launch of NICRA, a total of 70 interface meetings were conducted in the states facing significant weather fluctuations. Sixty-eight climate resilient technologies including soil and water conservation are demonstrated in 446 villages of 151 clusters. Further, 41 agro-forestry models have been developed and promoted to enhance resilience, livelihood and income security in different agro-ecologies. In the last five years nearly 214 technical supports/ consultancy services were provided on all these aspects covering different agro-ecological regions of India. So far, ICAR has capacitated more than 30,000 state departmental officials and farmers from different states on various aspects of soil & water conservation / watershed management using modern tools and techniques.”

2.5 On being asked whether the Department has any mechanism to advice farmers on crop selection taking into account the fluctuations in weather patterns, the Department stated:

“Twenty-five centers of “AICRP on Agro-meteorology” studied a shift in climatic pattern in major agricultural regions. ICAR issues agromet advisories (weather-based agro advisories) twice a week (Tuesday and Friday) to the farmers for farm level interventions considering prevailing weather forecast and fluctuations. Presently, more than 3 crore farmers are receiving agromet advisories through the Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva.”

2.6 When the Committee asked about the climate resilient technologies of farming developed by the Department and their applicability to different regions of the country and target set to create awareness among farmers about successful climate resilient practices and technologies under NICRA projects, the Department stated:

“A total of 286 climate resilient technologies have been developed for the benefit of stakeholders/ farmers of 22 states and 3 Union Territories (UTs). The climate resilient technologies including crop varieties, intercropping systems, conservation agriculture, crop diversification, agroforestry systems, zero till drill sowing of wheat to escape terminal heat stress, alternate methods of rice cultivation (system of rice intensification, aerobic rice and direct seeded rice), in-situ moisture conservation etc. have been disseminated among the farmers/ stakeholders in 151 vulnerable districts across the country. During the past fourteen years, a total of 23,613 training programs were conducted against the target of 17,500 training programs to educate farmers of the Country on various aspects of climate change and resilient technologies. So far 6,47,735 farmers covered to enable wider adoption of climate resilient technologies and minimize the agricultural loss.”

2.7 When specifically asked about the steps being taken by the Department to promote Climate Smart Farming practices in the country, the Department stated:

“To promote climate-smart farming practices in the country, NICRA under Technology Demonstration Component (TDC) have tested and validated various location-specific promising climate resilient technologies at on-farm sites of 448 villages in 151 climatically vulnerable districts for adoption by the farmers. The climate-smart farming technologies are shared with the respective State Governments for further upscaling. So far, the program has been implemented in

448 villages involving an area of about 2,71,605 hectares with 2,31,421 households distributed in 28 States and five Union Territory.”

2.8 According to the Department, Division has prepared the Soil Resource Map (Atlas) of the country at 1:1 million scale and is available in public domain. Large scale mapping of the country (higher scale) has been contemplated in collaboration with Soil & Land Use Survey of India to finish the mapping during next 5 years.

Besides, Soil resource inventory map (LRI) at district level is prepared based on priority / need. So far LRI for 81 districts at 1:50,000 scale is prepared and released in public domain. The LRI maps are prepared by state soil survey department, and ICAR-NBSS&LUP has already trained them to take up district level (high resolution) LRI. Using the revised methodology developed by ICAR-NBSS&LUP, all the districts of the country, represented by 62 Agro-Ecological Sub-Regions (AESR) can be covered in the next 10-15 years (by 2040).

2.9 When the Committee asked how preparation of the Land Resource Atlas and LRI would help Farmers of the country and make Indian Agriculture Climate Resilient, the Department stated:

“The land resource inventory is helpful to estimate strength, weakness and potential of land units. This enables the agriculture experts to suggest soil management practice, choice of crops, conservation strategies for mitigating adverse effects of climate change. In addition, effective use of soil data helps farmers and development planners to efficiently address local and region-specific climatic vagaries. For example, watershed development plans executed in Karnataka base on LRI have performed better than all other watershed programs.”

## **B. AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING**

2.10 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) under the Head of Agricultural Engineering Division since the year 2020-21 are as follow:



(In Rs. Crore)			
YEAR	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2020-21	70.00	58.55	57.62
2021-22	65.00	55.00	54.72
2022-23	48.30	48.30	48.01
2023-24	65.00	70.09	70.08
2024-25	91.24	91.24	-
2025-26	95.74	-	-

2.11 On being asked by the Committee about the contributions made by the Department for promoting Farm Mechanization particularly for Small and Marginal Farmers in the country, the Department stated:

“Agricultural Engineering Division has promoted farm mechanization particularly for small and marginal farmers in the country, the contribution made in last five years includes development of 434 technologies out of which 213 have been commercialised. These helped in availability of higher efficiency machines with less drudgery. Development of these user-friendly machines has uplifted the farm power availability to 2.54 kw/hectare from 1.84 kW/hectare. Organized 14 Entrepreneurship Development Programmes on Custom Hiring of Agricultural Machinery, benefitting about 400 rural youth and custom hiring of the farm machinery is being encouraged to avoid the owning of costly farm machines by marginal and small farmers having small land holdings. Division conducted Frontline Demonstrations of more than 94 improved farm equipment and machinery in more than 8000 ha area. Established 146 Agro-Processing Centers (APCs), Makhana processing plants (05 nos), kinnow grading and waxing plants (50 nos), millet processing plants (05 nos), honey processing unit (02 nos), jaggery processing plant (01 no) in production catchment for benefit of farmers/entrepreneurs. Backstopped establishment of 32 food testing labs during 2014-22.”

2.12 The Minister of Finance during her Budget 2025-26 Speech on February 1, 2025 announced for establishment of Makhana Board in Bihar, she stated:

“For this, there is a special opportunity for the people of Bihar. A Makhana Board will be established in the state to improve production, processing, value addition,

and marketing of makhana. The people engaged in these activities will be organized into FPOs. The Board will provide handholding and training support to makhana farmers and will also work to ensure they receive the benefits of all relevant Government schemes.”

2.13 During the evidence of the representatives of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education held on 20.02.2025 in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants 2025-26, the Member of the Committee stated:

“मैं मखाना रिसर्च के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। सभापति जी ने संसद में भाषण दिया, बिहार के बारे में संसद में आपने बोला। बिहार के लोगों ने उतना अच्छा नहीं बोला, जितना आपने बजट पर बोला। यह कहा गया कि मखाना रिसर्च बोर्ड बनाएंगे। मखाना रिसर्च इंस्टिट्यूट को बस ताला लगाना बाकी रह गया है। हमारी बात सही है या नहीं। 42 लोगों की सैंक्शन पोस्ट्स पर मात्र 10 लोग हैं। उसका ग्रेड घटाते-घटाते कहाँ लेकर चले आए हैं? मैं दरभंगा वाले की बात कर रहा हूँ। क्या आपको इस बारे में पता है? उसका कोई ग्रेड ही नहीं है, वहाँ कोई काम नहीं होता है। आप इस चीज को तो ठीक कीजिए। आज तक हार्वेस्टिंग मशीन डेवलप नहीं कर पाए। ठंड के दिनों में उस फसल को निकालने के लिए 8-10 फीट पानी में नीचे जाते हैं। वहाँ कोई मशीन नहीं होती है। ठंड में इंसान पानी में डूबकर उस फसल को निकालकर लेकर आता है। आदमी उस समय पानी में पैर नहीं रखना चाहता है। यह हमारी बात सही है या नहीं। मखाना की खेती तो पानी के भीतर 8-10 फीट पर होती है। हम उसे कैसे निकालते हैं? इतना बड़ा आईसीआर बनाकर हम देश में घूम रहे हैं। जब हम उसका लावा बनाते हैं, वह काला रंग का होता है, उसे गुडी बोलते हैं, वह छोटा-छोटा होता है, उसको हाई डिग्री तापमान पर गर्म करते हैं और उसे हाथ से ही फोड़ा जाता है। हम एक मशीन भी नहीं बना पाए कि उसका प्रोसेस मशीन से हो जाए। जो बोर्ड बना है, वह तो पोस्ट हार्वेस्ट के लिए है। जो उसके लिए बेसिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर की जरूरत है, उसका कहीं कोई जिक्र नहीं है। 100 करोड़ रुपये इसी कृषि विभाग ने बोर्ड बनाने के नाम पर दिया है। 10 करोड़ रुपये रिसर्च के नाम पर दे देते। आप

उसी में से ले लीजिए, आप ही का तो पैसा है, इधर से उधर करके रिसर्च के लिए ले लीजिए और उस मखाना इंस्टिट्यूशन को ठीक कर दीजिए।”

2.14 In post evidence replies, the Department stated that it has developed several machines for post-harvest processing of Makhana such as Makhana seed grader, Makhana seed primary roasting machine, Makhana seed popping machine, popped Makhana grader and Makhana seed Harvester (under testing and evaluation).

### **C. CROP SCIENCE**

2.15 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) under the Head of Crop Science since the year 2020-21 are as follow:-

(Rs in Crore)			
Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2020-21	715.50	612.24	578.39
2021-22	708.00	615.00	599.66
2022-23	526.08	526.04	521.23
2023-24	714.41	962.78	930.62
2024-25	930.22	930.22	-
2025-26	965.46	-	-

2.16 When the Committee asked how the Department is planning to utilize the increased allocation under this Division during the financial year 2025-26, the Department stated:-

“There is a marginal increase of Rs.35.43 Crore in the BE 2025-26 in comparison to 2024-25, which is already distributed across 63 components of six sub-schemes of Crop Science Division. Major part of this enhanced budget be utilized in the various activities of two budget announcement components namely; i). Enhancing climate resilience and ensuring food security with genome editing and ii). Global R&D Hub for millets in India. The total Rs. 930.22 Crore has been allocated in RE 2024-25, which has been distributed across 63 components of the scheme. The whole allocation RE will be utilized.”

2.17 When the Committee asked about the steps undertaken by the Department for bringing about improvement in the seeds of various types of crops like pulses, foodgrains and oilseeds so as to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of Agricultural Produce during last five financial years, the Department stated:

“During last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) total 1790 varieties of 80 field crops have been released which include cereals (788), oilseeds (247), pulses (283), forage crops (111), fibre crops (289), sugarcane (46) and other crops (26). Department made systematic efforts to produce breeder seed of the newly released varieties, wherein a total of 542892 q of breeder seed of more than 2000 varieties across 60 crops was produced. The Varietal Replacement Rate (Less than 5 years and 10 years old varieties in seed chain) during 2019-20 to 2023-24 had significant gain in all major field crops over the past five years. The percentage share of breeder seed indents for varieties less than 5 years old varieties increased notably during 2023-24 in almost all the major crops except soybean. The varietal mismatches have been reduced to 12.1% during 2023-24 from 19.30 % during 2018-19. Further, the inclusion of newly released high yielding varieties in the seed chain has led to enhancement in the varietal replacement rates leading to significant increase in the productivity across the crops over the years.”

2.18 Further when asked whether the ICAR has any system in place to monitor performance and productivity of New Crop Varieties and Hybrids released by their Institutes, the Department stated:-

“Newly developed varieties and hybrids are demonstrated at farmers’ field through front line demonstrations (FLDs) to evaluate the performance of varieties and hybrids outside the research farm. Survey and surveillance activities are regularly carried to check the performance and response of varieties to diseases and insect-pests. High yielding varieties and hybrids, after their release, find place in the seed chain. Breeder seed indents are the indicators of adaptability and popularity of any variety. Higher the indent of variety in comparison to its other contemporary varieties establishes the popularity and acceptability of that variety among the

framers. The feedback received from farmers-oriented programs after demonstrating the varieties also indicate the performance. The impact analysis studies are regularly conducted on performance of ICAR varieties”

2.19 Taking note of the fact that many endemic crop varieties are on the verge of extinction and the conservation of local (endemic varieties) crops is must, when the Committee asked whether the Department has any specific budget and policy for the conservation of endemic crops, the Department stated:

“The Department is ensuring the conservation of endemic varieties. The ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi is nodal Institute for collection, characterization, conservation and exchange of Plant Genetic Resources in the country as per the extant regulations/guidelines. The ICAR-NBPGR has ten regional stations situated in different diversity rich regions of the country with special attention to the endangered and near extinction species. The center has currently conserved 470637 accessions of 2147 species in its National Gene Bank (NGB) which include 999382 accessions of landraces, farmers/ traditional varieties collected from across the country and the National Gene Bank has the status of second largest gene bank in the world. The NGB has a capacity to conserve about one million germplasm, is supported by partnership of 59 other institutions including ICAR research Institutes and State Agricultural Universities designated as the National Active Germplasm Sites (NAGS) for both in-situ and ex-situ collections located in various parts of the country for maintaining, evaluating and distributing germplasm from their active collections to NGB and other centers. Department has specific budgetary provision of Rs. 38.27 crores during 2025-26 for ICAR-NBPGR for the conservation of plant genetic resources including that of endemic crops.”

2.20 During the evidence of the representatives of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education held on 20.02.2025 in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants 2025-26, the Member of the Committee stated:

“इसमें तो कोई दो राय नहीं है कि पिछले कुछ सालों में खाद्यान्न पदार्थों में जो भी आपने बीज तैयार किए हैं, उनकी वजह से उत्पादन बढ़ा है। चाहे वह गेहूँ है, बाजरा है, बल्कि हालात तो यह हो गए हैं कि चना जो बिल्कुल हमारे से अलग हो गया था, जो आपने चने का नया बीज दिया है, उससे अब चने का उत्पादन भी बहुत बढ़ा है। इससे कहीं न कहीं गड़बड़ भी है। उदाहरण के तौर पर बाजरा आम तौर पर 12-13-14 क्विंटल आजकल प्रति एकड़ होने लग गया है। यह कभी 5 क्विंटल एकड़ से ज्यादा नहीं होता था। अब यह 14 क्विंटल प्रति एकड़ तक हो गया है। हमारा पशु उसे खा नहीं पाता है। इसका क्या तरीका निकलेगा? अब जो आपने गेहूँ की बात कही है, जब भारत में सर्दी ज्यादा होगी तब गेहूँ की ज्यादा पैदावार होगी। तभी वह बीज मोटा होगा। खुदा न खास्ता कई बार गर्मी जल्दी आ जाती है तो गेहूँ का उत्पादन गिर जाता है। क्या कोई ऐसा बीज भी हो सकता है कि उस तापमान को वह सहन कर ले? गेहूँ का उत्पादन सर्दी और गर्मी से जुड़ा हुआ है। इसी प्रकार अब तक ग्वार और उड़द दो चीजें ऐसी हैं, जिनकी पैदावार घटी है, जिनकी पैदावार हम नहीं बढ़ा पाए हैं। उड़द का तो ऐसा है कि थोड़ी सी बारिश होते ही वह काली पड़ जाती है। कोई इसका अच्छा बीज डेवलप हो जाए। देसी ग्वार की जगह अब तो ग्वारी का रूप भी आ लिया, लेकिन तब भी वह बात नहीं है, क्योंकि इसका हम डबल फायदा लेते थे। इससे खाद भी बनता था। पशुओं के चारे के अलावा यह खाद में भी काम आता था। ग्वार को हम ज्यादा डेवलप नहीं कर पाए। आपने आलू, गोभी, टमाटर, प्याज आदि की पैदावार ज्यादा बढ़ा दी। गोभी को तो किसान सड़क पर फेंकने लग गया है। उसे रुपया तो छोड़िए उसे 50 पैसे किलो में भी कोई नहीं खरीदता है। आपने उसका इतना ज्यादा उत्पादन बढ़ा दिया है। पता नहीं कौन सा बीज लेकर आये हो। सेम पोजिशन बाकी चीजों की भी है और उनकी भी यही हालत हो गई है। उनकी वास्तविकता तो खत्म हो गई है, लेकिन उनका उत्पादन कई गुना ज्यादा बढ़ गया है। आप ऐसा भी बीज तैयार मत कीजिए, जिससे उसका स्वाद भी मारा जाए।”

#### **D. HORTICULTURE SCIENCE**

2.21 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE), under the Head of Horticulture Science Division since the year 2020-21 are as follow:-

(Rs. in Crore)			
Year	BE	RE	AE
2020-21	194.00	181.72	177.15
2021-22	212.00	183.00	179.17
2022-23	157.53	157.53	156.70
2023-24	212.00	217.45	209.82
2024-25	257.07	257.07	-
2025-26	318.91	-	

2.22 On being asked how the Department is planning to utilize / spend the increased allocation in BE 2025-26, the Department submitted:

“During past four years, some of the activities were deferred in order of priority and importance in research activities, which have been planned during 2025-26. In addition, a significant amount of budget has been proposed under the new initiative on Enabling climate resilience and ensuring food & nutritional security through genome editing in horticultural crops”.

2.23 As per the information furnished by the Department, a total of 579 varieties/hybrids in different horticultural crops have been released and notified/ released during the last 5 years, varieties/ hybrids notified/released during the year 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 were respectively 93, 98, 101, 98 and 189.

2.24 On being asked about the steps the Department has taken to popularize cropping/ cultivation of these new varieties / hybrids of Horticultural Crops notified/ released by ICAR during the last 5 years, the Department stated:

“To popularize the cultivation of new varieties of horticultural crops, regular outreach programs in form of Kisan Melas/ Kisan Gosthis, Exhibitions, trainings & Field Demonstrations are organized. During last five years, a total of 2313 trainings

and 2507 field demonstration of technologies were arranged for the farmers. Produced and distributed 2,636.07q breeder/Truthful Label seeds of vegetables, spices etc.; 9672.633t seed of tuber crops, 120.8 lakh rooted cuttings, 110.87 lakh plants of perennial crops and 1993.49q of mushroom spawn to farmers as a part of transfer of improved technologies”.

2.25 On being asked about the steps undertaken by the Department to create awareness about new and developed varieties of Horticultural Crops among farmers and their response with regard to adoption of these varieties of Horticultural Crops, the Department stated:

“The Department has laid emphasis on transfer of technology among Small and Marginal Farmers through training and capacity building of stakeholders and field demonstration of technologies. During last five years, a total of 5672 trainings, Field demonstration and capacity building programs were organized for stakeholders benefitting 173563 farmers. To popularize improved varieties of horticultural crops, a total of 485.01 quintal seeds of vegetables, spices etc. benefitting 19703 farmers; 1677.88 quintal seeds of potato and other tropical tuber crops benefitting 4013 farmers; 4440822 improved variety plants/cuttings of horticultural crops benefitting 17381 farmers were distributed in different agroclimatic regions. To demonstrate the usefulness of balanced nutrient management for enhanced productivity of horticultural crops, distributed a total of 9091.45 quintal fertilizers benefitting 10178 farmers; 1307.92q micronutrients/biofertilizers benefitting 8797 farmers and 7846kg/lit plant protection chemicals/bioformulations benefitting 6860 farmers. Also, to facilitate the intercultural operations in production chain, a total of 21638 implements/tools were distributed to 11376 farmers”.

2.26 Responding to a query as to how the varieties developed by the Department have contributed in the increase in income of the farmers of the country, the Department stated:

“The improved varieties with matching production technologies in horticultural crops have been helpful in increased area and production and thereby income of stakeholders at large. The area under horticultural crops has increased from 26.46



million ha during 2019-20 to 28.44 million ha during 2022-23 with increased production from 311.05 million metric tons to 355.5 million metric tons. As a result of increased production, the export also increased leading to enhanced foreign exchange earnings. Commercial varieties of grapes grafted on Dogridge rootstock, Pomegranate variety Phule Bhagwa, the potato variety Kufri Pukhraj and the triple disease resistant Arka Rakshak & Arka Samrat tomato hybrids have enabled increased foreign exchange earnings.

Studies on demonstration of improved varieties of tuber crops indicated increase in net household income through tuber crops-based Integrated Farming System models by Rs. 21,000/ha in tribal regions of Andaman & Nicobar Islands”.

2.27 When asked about the steps undertaken by the Department to preserve and increase the shelf life of Horticulture Crops, the Department stated:-

“Various pre- and post-harvest technologies were standardized to enhance the shelf life of horticultural crops, which were disseminated to farmers and other stakeholders. A Controlled onion storage structure has been developed by which the shelf life of onion could be extended upto eight months as against four to five months in other storage systems with reduced post-harvest losses from 30 percent to 15 percent. Wax coating of fruits and vegetables such as oranges and apples has enhanced shelf life of more than a month and reduced weight loss of 12 to 15 per cent”.

2.28 On being asked about the steps taken for post-harvest handling of Horticultural Crops so as to minimize their wastage, the Department stated:

“The Department has developed several processing and value-addition technologies to minimize wastage to produce. Improved techniques of harvesting, curing & grading have been developed for post-harvest handling of Horticulture produce for minimizing wastage.”

2.29 During the evidence of the representatives of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education held on 20.02.2025 in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants 2025-26, the Member of the Committee stated:

“कुछ एक दवाई ऐसी हैं, जिनको हमारे लोग जंगल में खोजते हैं। एक यहीं पर कोई साथी हाथ तुड़वाकर बैठे हैं और पिछले महीने मैंने भी अपना हाथ तुड़वा लिया। मेरे से किसी ने कहा कि तू हड़जोड़ ले ले, लेकिन जैसे ही मैंने वह लिया तो वह गर्म इतना है कि दो दिन के बाद वह मुझे छोड़ना पड़ गया। आप मेरी भाषा को समझ गए होंगे। ये गुण जड़ी बूटियों में होते हैं। पुराने लोग तो कहेंगे कि यह ले लो, तुम्हारी हड्डी जुड़ जायेगी, लेकिन उसे लेते हैं तो वह गरम होता है और उसे हम हजम नहीं कर पाते हैं। आप इन चीजों पर भी थोड़ा ध्यान दीजिए। इस तरह की पुरानी जड़ी बूटियाँ भी एक तरह से फ्रूट्स में ही आती हैं।”

## **E. ANIMAL SCIENCE**

2.30 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) under the head of Animal Science Division since the year 2020-21 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)			
YEAR	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2020-21	330.00	274.13	259.63
2021-22	302.00	262.00	253.07
2022-23	224.41	224.41	223.06
2023-24	300.00	306.72	303.99
2024-25	415.15	415.15	-
2025-26	504.04	-	-

2.31 When asked about the status of utilization of allocated Funds for the Financial Year 2024-25 under the Animal Science Division, the Department stated:-

“The Division has utilized Rs. 247.90 crores out of allocation of Rs. 415.15 crores (RE) as on 31-01-2025 with funds committed for utilization within the budget allocated. Division had planned for the complete utilization allocated of funds during the financial year 2024-25.”

2.32 During the evidence of the representatives of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education held on 20.02.2025 in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants 2025-26, the Member of the Committee stated:

“यहाँ आईवीएफ की चर्चा हुई थी कि यह थोड़ा महँगा है। हम लोग बजट में नहीं देख रहे हैं कि कैसे आप उसे सस्ता करेंगे? अगर हम आईवीएफ टेक्नोलॉजी को सस्ता कर दें, उसे ठीक कर दें तो जितना हमारे पास लाइव स्टॉक है, उसकी प्रोडक्टिविटी बढ़ जायेगी। उसके लिए हम लोग बजट में कुछ नहीं देख रहे हैं कि आप उसके लिए बजट में कोई प्रावधान कर रहे हैं कि आप इस टेक्नोलॉजी को कैसे सस्ता करेंगे। अभी यह टेक्नोलॉजी बहुत महँगी है।”

2.33 The Department, in post-evidence replies, submitted:

“The high cost of IVF is primarily due to the dependence on imported hormones, media and consumables. ICAR has developed locally produced culture media and hormones to reduce dependence on expensive imports. Additionally, fostering and supporting start-ups focused on producing hormones, plastic ware and essential instruments within the country drive down the costs and enhance accessibility. By developing indigenous solution, the ICAR aims to make IVF technology more affordable and widely accessible, ultimately benefiting farmers and strengthening the livestock industry.”

2.34 About the achievement made by the ICAR in development of vaccine for tackling diseases among cattle in the country, the Department stated:

“Monitoring animal health, along with disease diagnosis and control through effective vaccines, is the most effective way to increase livestock productivity and minimize losses. The ICAR's research on veterinary biologicals has successfully eradicated diseases like Rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) from India. The vaccines developed for important/ emerging animal diseases during the past 10 years includes- 1)A homologous live-attenuated LSD vaccine "Lumpi-ProVacInd" for cattle and buffalo, ii) FMD Marker vaccine – O, A

and Asia-1 serotypes, for cattle and buffaloes, iii) Brucella abortus S19Δ per DIVA vaccine for cattle, iv) Ancovax: Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) vaccine for animals, v) Inactivated Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV-1) Vaccine for cattle (2024), vi) IBRIVAXIN, a gene deleted marker vaccine for Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) in cattle. The other 10 vaccines have been developed for diseases of sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and horses.”

2.35 When asked how many new / improved processes for value addition of milk, meat, egg, fibre, etc., have been developed by the ICAR in last five years, the Department stated:-

“The Department has developed 25 during 2020-21, 25 during 2021-22, 18 during 2022-23, 20 during 2023-24 and 10 during 2024-25 new/Improved processes and value added milk products.”

2.36 On being asked about steps being taken by the Department for improvement, characterization and registration of populations of indigenous livestock, poultry, dogs, etc. and by what time, all indigenous livestock of the country would get registered, the Department stated:

“The ICAR has established a standard process of characterization, cataloguing, and registration of animal genetic resources of the country, which has been appreciated by UN recently. Department has launched ‘Mission towards zero non-descript AnGR in India’ to characterize livestock, poultry and dog breeds of the country. By the end of January 2025, registration of a total of 229 indigenous breeds and one synthetic cattle breed namely ‘Frieswal’ has been completed. A total 220 registered breeds have been gazette notified by the Govt. of India. Wherein, a total 219 indigenous breeds of livestock and poultry species have been included for breed-wise 21st Livestock Census (2024), being conducted by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of FAHD, Govt. of India. The Division has planned to get registered 40-50 new populations of the indigenous breeds in the next 4-5 years in the country.”

## **F. AGRICULTURE EXTENSION**

2.37 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE), under the head of Agriculture Extension Division since the year 2020-21 are as follow:-

(Rs. in Crore)			
YEAR	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2020-21	242.50	237.49	200.42
2021-22	328.00	284.00	269.76
2022-23	243.72	243.72	243.57
2023-24	327.00	250.00	249.91
2024-25	234.89	234.89	-
2025-26	204.23	-	-

2.38 About the utilization of allocated Funds, the Department has informed that the Division has utilized 89.69% of the allocated fund for the financial year 2024-25 (till December 2024) and has planned for fully utilization of funds by the end of financial year 2024-25.

2.39 When asked about the reasons for decrease in allocation in BE 2025-26 *vis-à-vis* BE & RE 2024-25 under this Division, the Department stated:

“During the initial period of the plan period, the financial prudence and management calls for optimum planning of expenditure particularly under the “Capital” budget head, which is concentrated more in initial years of the plan period. This prevents the spill-over of procurements/civil works form over plan period to another.”

2.40 As per the information provided by the Department, there are 766 districts in the country and a network of 731 KVKs spread all over the country. There are 93 districts having two KVKs each and 121 districts do not have KVK. The Department has also informed that a total of 15 new KVKs have been opened during the last five years. Out of these, 08 KVKs have been opened in the District where a KVK is already functioning.

2.41 When queried regarding constraints being faced by the Department to open atleast one KVK in each district of the country, the Department stated:

“The constraints faced by the Department to open at least one KVK in each district of the country includes permission of Committee of Establishment Expenditure (CEE), provision of fund and availability of 20 hectare contiguous potential land.”

2.42 On being asked about the availability of adequate infrastructure in the existing KVKs and how the inadequate infrastructure is hampering the work of KVKs, the Department stated:

“As per the KVK scheme each KVK provided an Administrative Building, Farmers Hostel, Staff Quarters, Demo Unit and Compound Wall as the basic infrastructure requirement. A provision is placed for the same and the respective civil work is undertaken depending upon the availability of Funds. KVKs are having adequate infrastructure and the same is strengthened depending upon the actual requirement in different plan periods. The civil work related to creation of infrastructure at the KVKs is placed depending upon the actual requirement. The respective ATARI periodically monitors the status of completion of these civil works. The KVKs which do not have adequate infrastructure are supported by the respective host organizations through sharing of infrastructure of nearby research station/KVK/college.”

2.43 During the Study Visit of the Committee in January, 2025, the Committee have been apprised that three Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are under the Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair). For KVK, Nimbudera (North & Middle Andaman), a detailed Plan with preliminary estimate for construction of Farmers' Hostel has been submitted during October, 2024 to the Council for approval and release of funds. KVK Nicobar, established in 2010 still lacks infrastructure, hostel and farm facilities.

2.44 When the Committee asked about the present status of the plan submitted for construction for farmers' hostel for KVK, Nimbudera, the Department stated:

“Administrative building of North & Middle Andaman KVK (Nimbudera) was included under the EFC 2021-26 and accordingly, it has been developed. Since, the administrative building has been completed, Farmers’ Hostel will be included in the next EFC.”

2.45 On being asked about the reasons for lack of infrastructure, hostel and farm facilities in KVK Nicobar which was established in 2010, the Department stated:

“Initially, a 5.0 ha plot of land allocated for the KVK in the Akchung area of Arong village, Car Nicobar by UT of A&N Islands, was later found to be under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ). Then, an alternate land has been demanded for the KVK from the Union Territory of A&N Islands. A joint Inspection Committee has already been formed in search of land by the UT Govt. and waiting for the allotment of new land for KVK Nicobar.”

2.46 On being asked to provide details of vacancies in KVKs across the country, the Department stated:

“The KVKs across the country have 11696 total sanctioned positions and 3499 position (29.92 %) are vacant. The posts of the KVKs are filled by respective Host Organization and filling up of vacancies in KVKs is a continuous process. Whenever vacancies in KVKs arise, the host organization takes appropriate action for filling the same. However, to fasten the process of filling of the vacancies, the Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR) peruses this issue with Vice-cancellor of Agricultural Universities and the Chief Secretaries of the States, and Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to the Hon’ble Chief Ministers of the States. The recruitment of staff of ICAR-KVKs are done centrally by ICAR and recently recruitment of 165 SMS and 36 Senior Scientist and Heads of KVKs is done.”

2.47 When asked regarding efforts made by the KVKs in the country to attract and retain the rural youth towards agriculture, the Department submitted:

“The KVKs are making efforts to attract and retain rural youths toward agriculture by organizing different programs involving rural youths. The vocational training programs are organized for rural youth and school dropouts. During 2024-25, 10651 such programs were organized with 2.59 lakh participants. Besides, Department implemented a program “Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA)” through 100 KVKs since 2017-18. A total of 102483 rural youth have been trained and 22412 agro-enterprises have been established involving 40262 trainees. The KVKs are also organizing National Skill Qualification Framework aligned skill development training programs of more than 200 hours since 2016-17, wherein 46969 rural youth have been trained so far.

2.48 One being asked about the efforts made by ICAR in general and KVKs in particular to train and educate the women engaged in farm practices so as to reduce their hardships and drudgeries, the Department stated:

“KVKs trained and educated about 26.77 lakh farm women on various aspects of agriculture and allied sectors to increase the productivity and profitability and of drudgery reduction. Total 48982 women farmers were trained under different skill training programs.”

2.49 When asked about the efforts made to make KVKs more productive in terms of extension programmes and outreach to maximize benefits to the farming population in their area, the Department submitted:

“Efforts are made for strengthening technology demonstration and promotion; supporting entrepreneurs and farmers' organizations through Public Private Partnership (PPP), integrating, packaging and promoting the technologies specific for various agro-climatic zones and training and capacity building for their larger adoption, reorienting the KVKs as knowledge and information centres for providing farmer-centric digital solutions and services, ensuring availability of quality seeds, planting materials and other technological inputs to the farmers in PPP mode, and creating mass awareness and community mobilization for nature-friendly and climate resilient agriculture and allied sectors.”



2.50 When asked to provide details about steps being taken / contemplated by the Department to ensure benefit of Agriculture Extension Programme actually reach to farmers of the country, the Department submitted:

“The Department has established 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the Country with mandate of technology assessment and demonstration for its application and capacity development. The activities of KVKs include on-farm testing to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems; frontline demonstration to establish the production potential of improved agricultural technologies on the farmers’ fields; capacity development of farmers for knowledge and skill up gradation; and production of quality seeds, planting materials and other technology inputs for availability to the farmers. In order to develop awareness of improved agricultural technology among the farmers, a large number of extension activities are taken up by the KVKs. The activities of KVKs motivate the farmers to adopt new agricultural technologies. The KVKs are also working in convergence with other Departments of Govt. of India in different flagship programs such as Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, Vibrant Village Program, PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PMJANMAN), Agri-Drone, etc.”

2.51 During the evidence of the representatives of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education held on 20.02.2025 in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants 2025-26, the Member of the Committee stated:

“आप लोगों ने केवीके को नष्ट ही कर दिया है। आपके एक्सटेंशन के कार्यक्रम को वहीं चलाएंगे। केवीके में यहां से रोज पत्र भेजे जाते हैं कि हमारे **100** एनजीओ के हैं। आपने तीन कानून बनाए हैं, सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट केवीके को चलाती है, उसके लिए अलग कानून है, राज्यों की यूनिवर्सिटीज के द्वारा चलाते हैं, उसके लिए अलग कानून है, एनजीओ के द्वारा चलाए जाते हैं उसके लिए अलग कानून है। काम एक ही होता है और सैलरी तीन तरह के मिलते हैं। आप उसको ग्रेच्युटी नहीं देते हैं उसे बंद कर दिया गया है। सुनीता शर्मा हैं, जिन्होंने इसे बंद कर दिया है। वे कहती हैं कि ग्रेच्युटी और पीएफ नहीं देंगे। इस तरह के जो काम हो रहे हैं, इस तरह से केवीके को हम बर्बाद कर देंगे, उसका

कोई अर्थ ही नहीं रह जाएगा। उसे और मजबूत करना था, लेकिन उसके बजट में कटौती की जा रही है। फील्ड ट्रायल के लिए बहुत चर्चा हुई थी कि वह फील्ड ट्रायल नहीं करता है। उसके लिए उनको ट्रांसपोर्ट अलाउंस नहीं दिया जाता है। वह अपने कैंपस में बैठा रहता है। वहीं पर किसानों को बुला लेता है, किसान अपना भाड़ा खर्च करके आते हैं। अगर फील्ड में जाने के लिए आप केवीके को उलाउंसेज नहीं देंगे, आप रिसर्च के लिए पैसे नहीं देंगे, तो फील्ड में कैसे जाएंगे? सौ-सौ किलोमीटर तक उसका दायरा होता है। आप उसे गाड़ी नहीं देते हैं, आप फील्ड में जाने के लिए पैसे नहीं देते हैं, तो आप केवीके की जो स्थिति बना रखी है, तो 10 हजार करोड़ रुपए खर्च करके, अंत में जो फार्मर्स हैं, आपके रिसर्च और फार्मर्स के बीच में वे ही हैं और आपने प्लान्ड वे में उसी को डी-फंड कर दिया यह मेरी समझ के बाहर की बात है।”

## **G. AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

2.52 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE), under the head of Agricultural Education Division since the year are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)			
Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2020-21	510.00	349.90	342.21
2021-22	388.00	328.00	324.18
2022-23	288.28	288.28	287.70
2023-24	322.74	322.74	321.81
2024-25	398.74	630.17	-
2025-26	708.94	-	-

2.53 On being asked about the reasons for substantial increase in allocation in RE 2024-25 vis-a-vis BE 2024-25, the Department stated:

“An allocation of ₹2291.61 crore for the XV Finance Commission period (FY 2021-22 to 2025-26) was approved. Out of which a total of Rs 934.62 cr. was released in first three years of scheme i.e. up to the year 2021-22 to 2023-24. Out of remaining, 630.17 is allocated for the financial year 2024-25 to achieve the goal fixed for the

scheme. Remaining amount of Rs. 726.82 is earmarked for the financial year 2025-26. Based on the committed liabilities and proposed budget in the EFC, RE 2024-25 BE for 2025-26 has been increased by the MoF, Government of India.”

2.54 About the utilization of allocated funds, the Department has informed that the Division has an allocation of Rs 630.17 crore during the current financial year 2024-25 and Rs.378.44 crore has already been utilized till 31st January, 2025.

2.55 About the role being played by the Department in formulation/preparation of syllabi of Agricultural Universities of the Country, the Department stated:

“The Department plays a major role in formulation/preparation/revision of syllabi of Agricultural Universities (AUs) of the Country. The Deans Committees are constituted for undergraduate programs to develop syllabus with delineated provision during graduation degree as certificate, diploma, degree and degree with research. The Subject Matter Area Committees are for PG and PhD programs to maintain the uniformity in the nomenclature and content across the country. The Department implemented Sixth Deans’ Committee report across AUs for 13 UG programmes as per the norms and guidelines of NEP2020 in 2024. Also, revised Model Act for Higher Agricultural Education Institutions, restructured Broad Subject Matter Areas (BSMA) Committee and revised the syllabi of Post Graduate and Ph.D. Programmes.”

## CHAPTER – III

### **Manpower in ICAR Institutes**

3.1 During the Study Visit of the Committee in January, 2025, the Committee have been apprised about the sanctioned and actual strength of various posts at the Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair) which as on 01.01.2025 are as under:

Main Campus Port Blair	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
RMP	1	1	0
Scientific	44	27	17
Technical	44	28	16
Administrative	27	20	07
Skilled Supporting	66	45	-
<b>Regional Station: Minicoy Island</b>			
Technical	02	02	00
Skilled Supporting	02	00	00

3.2 The Committee have been further apprised that the present sanctioned posts in the scientific cadre is sufficing the research and training purpose, however, additional scientific strength may be needed in future to address the issue of climate change research and looking into the remote location. The Institute is managing research, extension and other activities at the Regional Station, (Island Ecosystem) Minicoy by placing two scientists and two technical staff.

3.3 When asked by the Committee why there are such a large vacancies in the CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair) and its Regional Station at Minicoy, Lakshadweep Islands and what steps are being taken by the Department to fulfil the vacant posts at the Institute, the Department stated:

“The Department make out all efforts for filling up of vacant positions of different cadre (Scientific, Technical and Administrative) as and when they arise. The recruitment process for filling up of vacant position is a regular process through an established procedure of the Recruitment, subject to availability of appropriately qualified candidates. The posting of the qualified selected/recommended candidates is done both cadre-wise / Institute-wise, as the case may be, with the approval of the Competent Authority, strictly as per the requisitions.”

3.4 As per the information furnished by the Department, the present status of sanctioned, in position and shortage of scientific personnel in the Institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is 6586, 5073 and 1513 respectively.

3.5 The Department further submitted that the total sanctioned strength of ICAR is 23378 out of which the scientific, technical and administrative category positions are 6586, 7035 and 9757 respectively. The total number of vacant positions in ICAR is 8182 out of which the scientific, technical and administrative category positions are 1513, 2605 and 4064 respectively. Whereas the total sanctioned strength in Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs) of the Department is 3999 and the number of vacant positions is 1756.

3.6 When the Committee asked whether shortage of scientific manpower at these Institutes affect their proper functioning and achieving the desired result and, what steps have been taken / being taken by the Department to recruit and post desired / requisite manpower at these Institutes, the Department stated:

“The vacancies in different cadres/positions do not affect functioning and achievement of desired results, as officiating arrangements are made, and work is carried out through available manpower. The requisitions for various posts (DR-Scientist/DR-Sr. Scientist, DR-Pr. Scientist, Non-RMP and RMP) are sent to Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB), which is an independent recruiting agency under Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), for filling up of the cadre-wise and Institute-wise vacant positions, with the approval of the Competent Authority. The posting of the qualified selected/recommended candidates (as per merit list/ recommendation of the

ASRB) is done both cadre-wise/Institute-wise, as the case may be, with the approval of the Competent Authority, strictly as per the requisitions.”

3.7 On being asked, whether the Department is facing any problem / challenge in fulfilling the vacancies at the Institutes of ICAR, the Department stated:

“Yes. The Council is facing problem in recruitment which takes considerable time and money in completing the process by its own. Therefore, vacancies are not being filled on regular basis. Earlier, Staff Selection Commission were providing candidates for the post of Assistant, LDC, Steno etc. from its recruitment process which is now discontinued. Therefore, ICAR has to complete the recruitment process by its own which is time and money consuming and the process gets delayed. The issue has recently been taken up with DoPT to allow SSC to provide candidates from its recruitment process to the ICAR also.”

## **PART-II**

### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

#### **Budgetary Allocation**

1. The Committee note that the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) sought an allocation of Rs. 11253.07 crore for the year 2025-26, it got Rs. 10466.39 crore which is 0.21% of total Outlay (BE) of Government of India for the year. This allocation is, however, higher than the allocations of Rs. 9941.09 crore made in BE 2024-25 and Rs. 10156.35 crore made in RE 2024-25. The Committee also note that the proportion (in percentage terms) of Budgetary Allocation (BE) made in favour of the Department out of the total BE allocations of the Government of India has declined from 0.27% of the total outlay in the year 2020-21 to 0.21% in 2025-26. During the last three years the allocation is constant i.e. 0.21 % of the total outlay (BE) of the Central Government. The Committee feel that decline / stagnant allocations as percent of total outlays of the Government of India is not a healthy trend as they hamper Research, education and extension services provided by the Department to the farming Community. It is in this context, the Committee tend to agree with the suggestion of the Department for enhancement of Budget allocation to the tune of one per cent of Agri-GDP to address the priority and challenging issues of agriculture through Agricultural Research, Education and Extension. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Government to consider increasing the allocation for the Department to achieve the goal of making Indian agricultural system modern and self-reliant.

2. The Committee note that Rs. 6.50 crore was allocated in BE 2024-25 under Capital Section (Capital Outlay on other General Economic Services) which was reduced to Rs. 3.82 crore in RE 2024-25. Out of this allocation, Rs. 2.05 crore only was utilized till the end of January 2025 which is around 54% of RE allocation. The Committee, would like to be apprised of whether the Department would be in a position to fully utilize the RE allocation. They would also like the Ministry to inform the Committee as to why there is delay in spending the allocated funds and the reasons for seeking higher allocations in BE 2025-26 compared to RE of 2024-25.

The Committee also feel that when the allocated resources, however, small amounts they are and that too meant for creation of capital assets, could not be spent, the Ministry may not have any basis for asking more funds from the Government.

3. The Committee have been apprised that the Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair) was established in 1978 and most of the buildings are very old and due to the inclement weather conditions and earthquake prone area prevailing in these Islands, repairs and renovations need to be carried out at regular intervals. In this regard, a one-time Special Grant may be provided for the major renovations and repair of the laboratories, office and residential buildings. The Committee, while sympathetic to the demand of the Institute, recommend the Department to consider favorably a provision for allocation of funds for periodic renovations and repair of the laboratories, office and residential buildings of the Institutes.

#### 4. Allocations Under Scheme Head

The Committee note that out of the total allocation (BE) of Rs. 10466.39 Crore to the Department (DARE) for the year 2025-26, Rs. 3219.22 Crore has been allocated under Scheme Head which constitutes around 30.75 % of the total allocation. The Allocation under Scheme Head in BE 2025-26 (Rs. 3219 Crore) is 438 Crore more than the allocation of Rs. 2780 Crore in BE 2024-25 and Rs. 207 Crore more than the allocation of Rs. 3011.82 Crore in RE 2024-25. The Committee also note that the Department has sought / proposed Rs. 3237.09 Crores under Scheme Head for BE 2025-26. The analysis of the data reveals that since 2020-21 the actual spending under the scheme head has been lower than even Revised Estimates. In other words, these funds have been surrendered except in the year 2022-23. Further, the Committee note that in the year 2024-25, out of RE of Rs. 3012 crore, in the first 10 months of the year, it could spend Rs. 2085 crore only leaving Rs. 925 crore for spending in rest of the two months of the financial year. The Committee hope that the funds will be fully spent for the intended purposes before the end of the financial year.



**5. Natural Resources Management and National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)**

The Committee note that Natural Resources Management and National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) Division has been allocated Rs. 229.09 crore in BE 2025-26 which is less than the allocation of Rs. 252.16 crore in BE and RE 2024-25. The Committee also note that the Division is conducting research in farmers' participatory mode to develop the location specific, cost effective, eco-friendly, climate resilient technologies keeping in view the farmers' resource availability, traditional / indigenous technology knowhow and grass-root farm innovations to enhance agricultural production, productivity and profitability in the country. The Committee have been apprised that a total of 286 climate resilient technologies including crop varieties, intercropping systems, conservation agriculture, crop diversification, agroforestry systems, etc have been developed and disseminated for the benefit of stakeholders / farmers of 22 States and 3 Union Territories (UTs). In view of the role of the NICRA in developing new technologies, the Committee are of the view that fund constraints may not be allowed to come in its effective functioning.

**6. Agricultural Engineering**

The Committee note that Rs. 95.74 crore has been allocated to the Agricultural Engineering Division in BE 2025-26 which is more than the allocation of Rs. 91.24 crore in BE & RE 2024-25. The Committee have been apprised that in last five years, 434 technologies have been developed by the Division out of which 213 have been commercialized. The Committee also note that announcement for the establishment of Makhana Board in Bihar has been made in Budget 2025-26 to improve production, processing, value addition and marketing of Makhana. The Committee, however, are concerned to note that no sufficient machinery and equipment is available for harvesting and processing of Makhana. Further, the functioning of Makhana Research Institute at Darbhanga, Bihar, needs to be made effective by providing resources and manpower. The Committee believe that revival, development and effective functioning of Makhana Research Institute is a pre requisite for the successful implementation of the proposal for setting up of Makhana Board.

## **7. Crop Sciences**

The Committee note that many biofortified, hybrid and high yielding varieties of Field Crops – cereals, oilseeds, pulses, forage, fibre, sugarcane, etc., have been developed, released and notified for commercial cultivation by the farmers which lead to increase in production and productivity of these crops. The Committee, however, are of the opinion that several of these high yielding varieties of crops have lost originality and possess certain drawbacks like short shelf life, tastelessness, high consumption of inputs, degradation of soil and water, etc., which needs to be addressed on priority. Further, the production of some crops like Urad, Gwar, etc., have declined over the years. The Committee, therefore, lay emphasis on developing crop varieties having better productivity while retaining qualities in terms of taste, flavor, shelf life, nutrients, eco friendliness, etc and also for developing high yielding varieties of such crops whose production has declined over the years .

## **8. Horticulture Science**

The Committee note that Rs. 318.91 crore has been allocated to Horticulture Science Division in BE 2025-26 which is more than the allocation of Rs. 257.07 crore in BE & RE 2024-25. The Committee have been apprised that a significant amount of budget has been proposed under the new initiative on enabling climate resilience and ensuring food and nutritional security through genome editing in horticultural crops. The Committee, while appreciating the Department for enhancing the allocation to the Horticulture Division, desire that emphasis should also be given for conservation and development of indigenous medicinal herbs and plants.

## **9. Animal Science**

The Committee note that Rs. 504.04 crore has been allocated to Animal Science Division in BE 2025-26 which is substantially higher than the allocations of Rs. 415.15 crore in BE and RE 2024-25. The Committee also note that the Division has utilized only Rs. 247.90 crore till 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025 which is less than 60% of allocated fund in RE 2024-25. The Committee have been apprised that the ICAR has developed

vaccines for several important / emerging animal diseases and its research on veterinary biologicals has successfully eradicated diseases like Rinderpest and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) from India. In this context , the Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons for high cost of In-Vitro-Fertilization (IVF) technology for the livestock which is hindering its accessibility to the farmers and the measures taken to address the issue and make the cost more affordable to the farmers.

10. The Committee note that ‘Mission towards zero non-descript AnGR in India’ has been launched by the Department to characterize, catalogue and register livestock, poultry and dog breeds of the country. As part of this, ICAR has devised a standard process of characterization, cataloguing and registration of animal genetic resources of the country. So far , the Committee note that registration of a total of 229 indigenous breeds and one synthetic cattle breed, namely, ‘Frieswal’ has been completed by the end of January 2025 and the Division has planned to get registered 40 – 50 new populations of the indigenous breeds in the next four to five years in the country. The Committee while appreciating the widely recognized initiative, hope that the department will be able achieve the targets set i.e. the registration of 40 – 50 new populations of the indigenous breeds in the next four to five years.

11. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)

The Committee note that Agricultural Extension Division has been allocated Rs. 204.23 crore in BE 2025-26 which is less than the allocation of Rs. 234.89 crore made in BE 2024-25. The Committee also note that Agricultural Extension Division is carrying out on-farm testing to identify the location specificity of agricultural technologies, frontline demonstrations to demonstrate the production potential of different crops, training of farmers and extension personnel on knowledge and skills improvement and creating awareness on improved technologies among farmers of the country through a network of 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) spread all over the country. At present, 93 districts have two KVKs each and 121 districts do not have KVKs. Further , 15 new KVKs only have been opened during the last five years. The Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons for not setting up of even a single KVK in 93 districts. Further, as recommended in their Demands for

Grants (2025-26) report, the Committee suggest the DARE to address the following issues in coordination with D/o Agriculture & Farmers Welfare :

- (i) The shortage of skilled personnel experienced by many KVKs may be addressed on priority as it is impacting KVKs efficiency in discharging their duties.
- (ii) Streamlining of administrative processes of KVKs is also the need of the hour to improve their operational effectiveness to act as a one stop resource centre for supplying seeds, bio-products, issue/circulate advisories while leveraging ICT tools for wider outreach.
- (iii) The KVKs may be equipped with advanced/cutting edge technologies improving their ability to conduct effective demonstrations and on-farm testing of latest technologies. Such technologies may aid the KVKs in setting up of e-linkage facilities for real time agro advisories & monitoring within their jurisdiction and also to act as frontline demonstration cum resource centre for timely supply of farm inputs and effective dissemination of technologies.
- (iv) Funding to KVKs may be improved to equip them with latest technologies suggested at (iii) above. They are of the view that accepting and implementing the above suggestions result in transforming KVKs in to new version of KVK 2.0 to act as a resource hub for all extension schemes.
- (v) KVKs may focus on climate resilient agriculture through targeted training programmes and promote convergence with private sector initiatives for resource sharing.
- (vi) KVKs should work in close tandem with State Government and invariably inform public representatives like MPs, MLAs, MLCs, etc regarding their upcoming events in advance for seamless coordination and wider outreach.

## **12. Agriculture Education**

The Committee note that Rs. 630.17 crore was allocated to the Agricultural Education Division in RE 2024-25 which is Rs. 231.43 crore more than the allocation of Rs. 398.74 crore in BE 2024-25. The Ministry informed the Committee that Rs. 378.44 crore only has been utilized by the Division till 31st

January, 2025 which is approximately 60% of the RE allocation. The Committee also note that Rs.708.94 crore has been allocated to the Division in BE 2025-26 which is higher than last year BE & RE allocations. The Committee feel that there is a need to strengthen Agricultural Education in the country to produce skilled human resource which would ensure increase in production and productivity on sustainable basis. The Committee, therefore, while appreciating the Department for enhancing the allocation under Agricultural Education Division, recommend for proper and effective utilization of allocated fund so as to achieve the intended objectives.

**13. Manpower in ICAR Institutes**

The Committee note that a large number of posts including those in scientific, administrative and technical categories are lying vacant at various Institutes of the ICAR. The Committee have been apprised that vacancies in different cadres / positions do not affect functioning and achievement of desired results as officiating arrangements are made and work is carried out through available manpower. The Committee, while not agreeing to the contention of the Department that vacancies are not affecting the functioning of the Institute, recommend the Department to fill up the vacant scientific, administrative and technical posts at Institutes of ICAR at the earliest for the smooth and more meaningful functioning of the Institutes.

New Delhi  
11 March, 2025.  
20 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal  
Husbandry and Food Processing

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING  
(2024-25)**

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 from 1440 hrs. to 1535 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi:

**Present**

**Shri Charanjit Singh Channi – Chairperson**

**Members**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Shri Umeshbhai Babubhai Patel
3. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
4. Shri Kuldeep Indora
5. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
6. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
7. Shri Dharambir Singh
8. Shri Dushyant Singh
9. Shri Sudhakar Singh
10. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
11. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor

**RAJYA SABHA**

12. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
13. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
14. Shri Ramji Lal Suman
15. Shri P.P. Suneer

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                        |   |                  |
|----|------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Srinivasulu Gunda | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Shri Khakhai Zou       | - | Director         |
| 3. | Shri Prem Ranjan       | - | Deputy Secretary |

## LIST OF WITNESSES

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare  
(Department Of Agricultural Research And Education (DARE) /  
Indian Council Of Agricultural Research (ICAR))

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Sanjay Garg	Addl. Secy, (DARE) & Secy. (ICAR)
2.	Smt. Alka Nangia Arora	Addl. Secy. (DARE) & FA (ICAR)
3.	Dr. Joykrushna Jena	Deputy Director General, (Fisheries Science) , ICAR
4.	Dr. R. C. Agrawal	Deputy Director General (Agri Edn.), ICAR
5.	Dr. D.K. Yadava	Deputy Director General (Crop. Science), ICAR

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the Sitting convened for taking Oral Evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) - in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants (2025-26) – Demand No. 2. Thereafter, the representatives of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education were called in. After welcoming the representatives of the Department to the Sitting, the Chairperson drew their attention to Director 55 (1) of the Directions by the Speaker regarding confidentiality of proceedings.

3. After introduction by the representatives of the Department, the representatives made a Power-point presentation briefing the Committee about the allocation and utilization of fund to the Department since the year 2019-20; budget allocation and expenditure under various heads viz. DARE Sectt., Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs), Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) since the year 2023-24 and under the ICAR Schemes for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26; achievements & CAUs, ASRB and Agrinnovate Indian Ltd; and major achievement in terms of development of climate resilient and bio-certified varieties of crops, distribution of quality planting materials such as seedlings, root cutting, etc. and varietal replacement.

4. The Committee raised several issues/points which are briefly mentioned below and sought clarification(s)/ information thereon from the Department:-

- (i) Issue of legal framework for bio-fortification of crops and the impact of bio-fortification of crops on human health;
- (ii) Issue of poor condition of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and declining budget allocations for the KVKs;
- (iii) Issue of Vacant Posts vis-a- vis Sanctioned Posts in KVKs;

- (iv) Need to strengthen KVKs as they act as link between research and farmers;
- (v) Evolving/Strengthening the mechanism for varietal replacement of seeds to ensure that only Certified Seeds reach the farmers as spurious and sub-standard quality of seeds are reaching to the farmers on large scale;
- (vi) Need to have impact analysis of seeds provided/distributed to farmers;
- (vii) Need to make In-Vitro-Fertilisation (IVF) cheaper as it would increase the productivity of livestock in the country;
- (viii) Issue of non-development of machine/technology for harvesting and processing of Makhana;
- (ix) Issue of categorisation/classification of cultivation of potato as agricultural activity or horticultural activity;
- (x) Need to address the drawbacks/shortcomings such as tastelessness, short shelf life etc. of newly developed seeds as production and productivity have increased but they have lost originality;
- (xi) Need to develop quality seeds for crops and fruits whose production and productivity are still low;
- (xii) Need to give emphasis on development of plants/crops having medicinal values;
- (xiii) Need to undertake research to mitigate or contain the impact of global warming on production and productivity of crops; etc.

5. The Representatives of the Department responded to most of the queries raised by the Members. The Chairperson, then, thanked the witnesses for sharing valuable information with the Committee on the subject and directed them to send, in writing, requisite information; which was not readily available with them, to the Committee Secretariat.

***The Committee then adjourned.***

*(A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the Sitting has been kept for record.)*



**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2024-25)**

The Committee sat on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 from 1605 hours to 1625 hours in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

***Present***

**Shri Charanjit Singh Channi –Chairperson**

**Members  
Lok Sabha**

2. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai
3. Shri Kuldeep Indora
4. Shri Rajpalsinh Mahendrasinh Jadav
5. Md. Abu Taher Khan
6. Shri Rahul Singh Lodhi
7. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
8. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
9. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
10. Shri Dharambir Singh
11. Shri Dushyant Singh
12. Shri Sudhakar Singh
13. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
14. Shri Bhausabeb Rajaram Wakchaure

**Rajya Sabha**

15. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
16. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
17. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
18. Shri S. Kalyanasundaram
19. Shri P. P. Suneer

### **Secretariat**

1. Shri Srinivasulu Gunda – Joint Secretary
2. Shri Khakhai Zou – Director
3. Shri Prem Ranjan – Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Anil Kumar Sanwaria – Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration of the draft Reports on Demands for Grants (2025-26) pertaining to (i) xxx xxx xxx (ii) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education); and (iii) xxx xxx xxx

3. xxx xxx xxx

4. xxx xxx xxx

5. The Committee then have considered and adopted the draft Reports mentioned at Sl. No. 2 (ii) without any modifications/amendments.

6. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Reports in the light of modifications suggested and present the Reports to Parliament.

***The Committee then adjourned.***