STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2024-25)

16

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2024-25)

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25)]

SIXTEENTH REPORT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2025 / Shravana, 1947 (Saka)

SIXTEENTH REPORT

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 (2024-25)

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25)]

Presented to Lok Sabha on *20.08.2025*
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on *20.08.2025*

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2025 / Shravana, 1947 (Saka)

COA No. 515

Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Seventeenth Edition) and Printed by Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi-110001

CONTENTS

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

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI – CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

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 Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

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

Shri Krishan Lal Panwar, Member resigned from Rajya Sabha on 14.10.2024.

**Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha, Member, Rajya Sabha has been nominated to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing w.e.f on 8th August 2025, vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, Para No. 3117 dated 13.08.2025.*

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri Dhiraj Kumar	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Maheshwar	-	Director
3.	Shri Prem Ranjan	-	Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25), having been authorized by the Committee to submit this Report on their behalf, present this 16th Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

2. The Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 17 December 2024. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 30th January, 2025.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 18 August, 2024

4. An Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix**.

NEW DELHI;
18 August , 2025
27 Shravana, 1947 (Saka)

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

CHAPTER-I
REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 2024.

1.2 The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 13 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These Replies have been scrutinised and categorised as under:-

(i)	Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government: Recommendation Para Nos. 1, 2, 3,4, 5, 6, 8,11,12 and 13	Total - 10 Chapter II
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies: Recommendation Para No. NIL	Total - NIL Chapter III
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee: Recommendation Para Nos. 9 and 10	Total- 02 Chapter IV
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited. Recommendation Para No. 7	Total - 01 Chapter V

1.3 **The Committee desire that utmost importance would be given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) to implement the Observations/ Recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases where it is not possible for the**

Ministry/Department to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter be intimated in writing to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Notes on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them at an early date.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the Action Taken by the Government on some of the Observations/Recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

A. Crop Science

RECOMMENDATION (PARA NO.7)

1.5 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

"The Committee note that Rs. 930.22 crore has been allocated to Crop Science Division in BE 2024-25 which is more than the allocation of Rs. 714.41 in BE 2023-24 but less than the allocation of Rs. 962.78 crore in RE 2023-24 and Actual Expenditure of Rs. 930.62 crore during the Financial Year 2023-24. The Committee also 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. At the same time, the Committee also note that several of these high yielding varieties of crops possess certain drawbacks like short shelf life, tastelessness, high consumption of inputs, degradation of soil and water, etc. which need to be addressed on priority. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to optimally and effectively utilize the allocation made to this Division and lay emphasis on developing crop varieties having better productivity while retaining qualities in terms of taste, flavor, shelf life, nutrients, environment friendliness etc."

1.6 The Department, in its Action Taken Reply, has submitted:-

"Crop Science Division has placed all efforts to achieve physical targets of the scheme "Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security" with optimal utilization of allocated funds. To address the current and predicted challenges of agricultural crop sector, modern technological tools like genome editing, genomics selection, speed breeding are used on development of resource use

efficient, extreme climate resilient and biofortified varieties for field crops and for the enhancement of varietal replacement rates for addressing the gaps in productivity and sustainable production. Successful efforts made in the past on special trait varieties includes development of 152 Bio-fortified varieties, heat tolerant varieties in wheat developed in major wheat growing areas of the country. The 14 rice varieties released and notified during 2024 with input use efficient traits. Efforts are made toward improving fodder and grain quality and shelf life of millets. Further, more focused efforts are made for addressing the issues of yield, short shelf life, tastelessness, flavor, nutrients, high consumption of inputs, degradation of soil and water, environment degradation etc. on priority through the various programs under the scheme."

1.7 The Committee had recommended the Department to optimally and effectively utilize the allocation made to Crop Science Division and lay emphasis on developing crop varieties having better productivity while retaining qualities in terms of taste, flavor, shelf life, nutrients, environment friendliness, etc. The Department in its Action Taken Reply has submitted about placing efforts to achieve physical targets with optimal utilization of allocated funds, use of modern technological tools like genome editing, genomics selection, speed breeding etc. for developing special trait varieties and some of the special trait varieties developed. The Department has also submitted that efforts are made towards improving fodder and grain quality and shelf life of millets and for addressing the issues of yield, short shelf life, tastelessness, flavour, nutrients, high consumption of inputs, degradation of soil, water, environment etc. The Committee, while appreciating the efforts of the Department, desire that the efforts of the Department to develop crop varieties having better yield/productivity while retaining qualities in terms of taste, flavour, shelf life, nutrients, environment friendliness need to be further strengthened and the varieties so developed need to be popularized for their adoption by the farmers. The Committee may also be apprised about the achievements made in this regard.

B. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)

RECOMMENDATION (PARA NO. 9)

1.8 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

"The Committee note that Agricultural Extension Division has been allocated Rs. 234.89 crore in BE 2024-25 which is less than the allocation of Rs. 327.00 crore made in BE 2023-24 and the Actual Expenditure of Rs. 248.49 crore incurred during the year 2023-24. 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 KVK. Also only 15 new KVKs have been opened during the last five years. Besides, there are inadequate infrastructure in several of the existing KVKs and about 30% of the sanctioned posts are vacant in KVKs across the country. In view of the foregoing, the Committee feel that the reduction in allocation in BE 2024-25 to Agriculture Extension Division is not a step in the right direction. The Committee are of the considered view that there should be atleast one KVK with adequate infrastructure and sufficient manpower in each district of the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take steps for enhancing allocation to Agriculture Extension Division to achieve the desired goal."

1.9 The Department, in its Action Taken Reply, has stated:-

"The total allocation of the Scheme "Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)" for the period 2021-26 is Rs.1202.45 Crore. Additionally, the Host Organization and Krishi Vigyan Kendras are also provided with funds from various other Ministries/Departments of the Central Government as well as the respective State Governments. There are 766 districts in the country, wherein 731 KVKs are existing across the country and the 15 new KVKs have been opened during the last five years."

1.10 Viewing the reduction in allocation in Budget Estimates (2024-25) to Agriculture Extension Division as a step not in right direction, the Committee

had recommended the Department to take steps for enhancing allocation to this Division so that there should be atleast one KVK with adequate infrastructure and sufficient manpower in each district of the country. The Department, in its Action Taken Reply, has submitted the already known information i.e. total allocation made to the Scheme 'Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)' for the period 2021-26 and availability of funds to the Host Organization and KVKs from other sources, number of districts and number of KVKs in the country and number of KVKs opened during the last five years. The reply of the Department is completely silent on taking steps for enhancing allocation to the Agriculture Extension Division and for establishing atleast one KVK with adequate infrastructure and sufficient manpower in each district of the country as recommended by the Committee.

KVKs play an important role in extension services and the benefits of the research and innovations in the field of agriculture reach to the farmers by KVKs through demonstration and dissemination of information about new varieties, practices and technologies. At present, there are 121 districts in the country which do not have KVK. Denial of benefits of KVKs to the farmers of these districts is totally unjustified and needs to be addressed on priority. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation to the Department to take steps for enhancing allocation to Agriculture Extension Division so that there should be atleast one KVK with adequate infrastructure and sufficient manpower in each district of the country.

C. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)

RECOMMENDATION (PARA NO. 10)

1.11 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

"The Committee note that the KVKs play an important role in extension services. The benefits of the research and innovations in the field of agriculture reach to the farmers by KVKs through demonstration and dissemination of information about new varieties, practices and technologies. The Committee desire the Department to make the training/extension services at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) more broad-based and inclusive by including Fishery, Animal Husbandry and other related subjects and also by covering more number of farmers without frequently repeating the same group of farmers for training and other extension services."

1.12 The Department, in its Action Taken Reply, has stated:-

"KVKs organize training programmes for farmers on various facets of agriculture and allied sectors including fisheries, animal husbandry, horticulture, agro-forestry, agricultural engineering, etc. The KVKs trained 0.38 lakh farmers in fisheries, 1.68 lakh farmers in animal husbandry, 2.39 lakh farmers in horticulture, 0.21 lakh farmers in agro-forestry and 0.72 lakh farmers in agricultural engineering during 2023-24. Besides, the KVKs organized 6.19 lakh extension activities on various facets of agriculture and allied sectors with participation of 200.58 lakh farmers. Since most of the farmers are engaged in multiple activities across agriculture and allied sectors, therefore same group of farmers may participate in more than one activity of KVKs covering different subject areas."

1.13 The Committee had desired the Department to make the training/extension services at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) more broad-based and inclusive by including Fishery, Animal Husbandry and other related subjects and also by covering more number of farmers without frequently repeating the same group of farmers for training and other extension services. The Department in its Action Taken Reply has submitted that various facets of Agriculture and Allied Sector including fisheries, animal husbandry, horticulture, agro-forestry, agricultural engineering etc. are covered/included in the training and extension programmes of the KVKs and has also furnished information about number of extension activities organized and number of farmers trained by KVKs. However, the reply of the Department on the recommendation of the Committee with regard to covering more number of farmers without frequently repeating the same group of farmers for training and other extension services is quite unsatisfactory and unacceptable. The Department, instead of accepting the shortcomings of trainings and extension services carried out by KVKs and taking corrective measures to make them more broad-based and inclusive, has justified the frequent participation of some group of farmers by saying that most of the farmers are engaged in multiple activities across Agriculture and Allied Sectors, so same group of farmers participate in more than one activity of KVKs covering different subject areas. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation to make training /extension services at KVKs more broad-based and inclusive by

covering more number of farmers without frequently repeating the same group of farmers for training and other extension services.

D. Agricultural Targets for 2047

RECOMMENDATION (PARA NO. 13)

1.14 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

"The Committee would like to be apprised of the targets set for various parameters in Agricultural and Allied Sectors to be achieved by 2047 as part of *Viksit Bharat.* Further, they also want the short-term targets fixed in this regard."

1.15 The Department, in its Action Taken Reply, has stated:-

"**Target of ICAR from 2024-25 to 2047**

Crop Science

- Developing of 3500 high yielding, climate resilient, nutritionally rich, input responsive varieties with special emphasis on oilseeds and pulses using modern breeding tools including genome editing; and use of trait specific germplasm.
- Identification of new genes and generation of genomic resources including fine mapping, cloning, characterization and functional validation of novel genes and promotors involved in biotic and abiotic stress tolerance, quality and enhanced productivity and their commercialized along with IP protection -160
- Production and supply of 30.00 lakh quintal of breeder seed
- Development of 285 rapid diagnostic tools and AI based digital forewarning systems for management of emerging insect-pests and diseases
- Innovations in terms of 1350 Improved Technologies, product, processes, methodologies etc.
- Registration of 2000 elite trait specific germplasm with National Gene Bank.
- Initiating research programme to develop crop cultivate that can be grown in space under Gaganyan and other space explorations.

Hort. Science

- Attaining 950 million tons targeted production of horticultural crops.
- Attaining productivity of horticultural crops at 35t/ha.

- Developing and providing technology support for bringing 50% production from the protected production conditions.
- Standardizing & providing technology support for generating 300 million tons export-oriented production of horticultural crops.
- Standardizing and providing technology support for converting 250 million tons produce into processed and value-added products of horticultural crops.

Animal Science

- Complete self-sufficiency in veterinary vaccines and diagnostics (Make in India approach) through Development 55 Drugs / New vaccines and 200 diagnostic kits.
- Development of 12 genome edited livestock & poultry for enhanced production; and pathogens for production of vaccines and diagnostics.
- Evaluation and characterization of 320 genetic resources.
- Registration of 300 new breeds/ varieties.
- Development of 160 feeding modules for GHG mitigation/ production enhancement, 100 probiotics/ herbal based therapeutics and 300 value added products and processes.
- Develop 10 AI based technologies in livestock.
- Sero-surveillance/monitoring, 50 lakhs samples testing for diseases.
- Production and distribution of 400 lakhs chicks and 8 lakhs Piglets/ Sheep/ Goat/ Rabbit.
- Development of infrastructure for producing sex-sorted semen at Animal Breeding Research Centre.
- Production of 130 lakhs Semen doses.
- To achieve an average productivity of 140 eggs per bird under backyard system of rearing and 300 eggs per bird per year in commercial poultry by 2047.

Agri. Engg.

- Development of 176 new equipment/ machinery/ technology
- Development of 102 value-added food, fibre and other agricultural allied products
- Conducting study on Status of Farm Mechanization of the country in different states
- Frontline demonstrations of 500 different equipment/ machinery covering 10000 ha area
- Licensing of 115 technologies
- Patent/copy right of 95 applications

- Establishment of National Institute on Agricultural Robotics and AI

Fisheries Science

- In 2047, the country is projected to produce 40 mmt of fish of which 8.0 mmt will be contributed from capture fisheries and 32.0 mmt from aquaculture side.
- By 2030, the production is estimated to be at 24.0 mmt including 6.0 mmt from capture and 18.0 mmt from aquaculture.

Agri. Education

- A revised curriculum has been devised and implemented for agriculture students from the academic session 2024-25 to prepare them for new challenges as part of *Viksit Bharat* in alignment with New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 focusing on outcome-based learning and entrepreneurship.
- Through various initiative and measures of Human Resource Management, ICAR is preparing scientists and teachers for 21st century skills in agriculture & allied sectors through competency-based capacity building programs and incentives through various fellowship and exchange programs.

Agri. Extension

- Customized farm advisory and extension delivery through Block Chain technology for traceability.
- Futuristic, demand-based production and consumption facilitated by Real-time Collectives.
- Full access to Cyber Physical Systems vis-à-vis using AI, Machine Learning, Big Data Analytics Problem- Solving & Real- Time Personalized Advisory and policy support.
- Pathways options for resilience against multiple stressors."

1.16 The Committee, while desiring to be apprised about the targets set for various parameters in Agricultural and Allied Sectors to be achieved by 2047 as part of Viksit Bharat, had wanted the Department to also fix short term targets. The Department in its Action Taken Reply has apprised about the targets of ICAR from 2024-25 to 2047. These targets, in view of the Committee, are ambitious and far-sighted having potential to revolutionize Indian Agriculture. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to properly plan

and make sincere efforts to achieve the targets set for itself as achievement of these targets would make Indian Agriculture and Allied Sectors modern and self-reliant.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Budgetary Allocation

Recommendation (Para No. 1)

The Committee note that the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) sought an allocation of Rs. 11173.21 crore for the year 2024-25, it got Rs.9941.09 Crore which is 0.21% of total Outlay (BE) of Rs. 48,20,512 crore of Government of India for the year. This allocation is, however higher than the allocations of Rs. 9504.00 crore made in BE 2023-24 and Rs. 9876.60 crore made in RE 2023-24. The Committee also note that the proportion (in % terms) of Budgetary Allocation (BE) made in favour of the Department out of the total Budget of the Government of India has progressively declined from 0.27% in the year 2020-21 to 0.21% in 2024-25.

The Committee feel that inadequate Budget allocation as well as progressive decline in proportion of Budgetary Allocation with respect to the total Budget of the Government of India is not a healthy trend particularly in view of the fact that the Agriculture and Allied Sectors are facing numerous challenges like low productivity, sub-standard quality of seeds, impact of variability in weather and climate change, degraded soil, depleting water resources, etc. The Committee are of the considered view that relevant Research and Development (R&D) is essential to develop climate resilient, high yielding, bio-fortified variety of seeds, new technologies, etc. In all these endeavors, the DARE and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), being the premier research organization for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in Agriculture and Allied activities, have to play pivotal role. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Government to consider increasing the allocation for the Department in future.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Finance has communicated the expenditure ceilings for RE 2024-25 of Rs.10156.35 crores which is overall increase of Rs. 215.26 crore in the Budget allocation over BE 2024-25. Similarly, the ceilings of BE 2025-26 is Rs.10466.39 crores which is an increase of Rs.525.30 crores over BE 2024-25 and Rs.310.04 crores over RE 2024-25. However, on the basis of recommendation of

Parliamentary Standing Committee, the department will make concerted efforts towards seeking enhanced budget allocation in the future as well.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Recommendation (Para No.2)

The Committee note that Rs. 10.41 crore was allocated in BE 2023-24 under Capital Section (Capital Outlay on other General Economic Services) which was reduced to Rs. 9.96 crore in RE 2023-24. Out of this allocation, Rs. 3.389 crore only was utilized during the year 2023-24.The Committee while noting the reasons for delay in taking up the required works resulting in surrender of more than 60 % of the funds allocated at RE stage, suggest that proper planning may be put in place to use funds meant for capital works.

Reply of the Government

Two Letters of Authority (LoA) for Rs. 37,40,000 and Rs. 7,27,66,448/- were issued to PAO/CPWD under the object head 'Building & Construction'. Also, two LoAs' for Rs. 7,12,236/- and Rs. 42,72,406/- were issued to PAO/CPWD under the budget head 'Furniture & Fixtures' by Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board(ASRB), an attached office of this Department. The above amounts were released through LoAs' to PAO/CPWD timely. However, CPWD, without citing any reason, at the fag end of the financial year 2023-24 surrendered Rs. 5.5 cr. under 'Building & Construction' and Rs. 1.5 lac under 'Furniture & Fixtures'. This was the primary cause of the savings under Capital added with minor un-utilizations in other object heads of both Head Quarters and ASRB.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Allocations Under Scheme Head

Recommendation (Para No. 3)

The Committee note that out of the total allocation (BE) of Rs. 9941.09 Crore to the Department (DARE) for the year 2024-25, Rs. 2780.39 Crore has been allocated under Scheme Head which constitutes around 27.97% of the total allocation. The Allocation under Scheme Head in BE 2024-25 (Rs. 2780.39 Crore) is

356.98 Crore more than the allocation of Rs. 2423.41 Crore in BE 2023-24, and Rs. 206.03 Crore more than the allocation of Rs. 2574.36 Crore in RE 2023-24. The Committee also note that the Department has sought/proposed Rs. 3011.62 Crores under Scheme Head for BE 2024-25 and the Department has to prioritize its programs and activities in view of reduced allocations. The Committee have been apprised that inadequate allocation during the financial year 2023-24 had adversely impacted the various planned activities under various Schemes. In many cases, capital expenditure planned in EFC/SFC could not be made due to inadequate budgetary allocations. Financial assistance was provided to various units from Non-Scheme budget in order to meet its committed recurring contingencies and avoid crisis. The Committee are of firm opinion that inadequate allocation in BE 2024-25 particularly under Scheme Head would adversely impact the Scheme and Programmes planned by various Subject Matter Divisions (SMDs) and may impact the overall working of Research Institutes under the ICAR.

The Committee are of considered view that further strengthening of Research and Development (R&D) eco-system for Agriculture and Allied Sectors in the country is indispensable for ensuring food and nutritional security and to improve profitability, sustainability and climate resilience. They, therefore, recommend the Department to take up the matter of enhancing the allocation under Central Sector Schemes with the Ministry of Finance in future.

Reply of the Government

The Department has submitted proposal for seeking enhanced budget allocation of Rs. 3011.82 crores under Scheme Budget in RE 2024-25 to MoF. Accordingly, the budget ceilings in RE 2024-25 has been fixed at Rs. 3011.82 crores by MoF which is an increase of Rs. 231.43 crores i.e. increase of 8.32% over BE 24-25. Similarly, the ceilings under Scheme Budget in BE 2025-26 is Rs. 3219.22 crore which is an increase of Rs. 438.83 crores (i.e. 15.78% increase) over BE 2024-25 and Rs. 207.40 crores (i.e. 6.88% increase) over RE 2024-25. Department pursued with the Minister of Finance for enhanced allocations at different forum to meet the challenges of Agricultural research.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Surrender of Funds

Recommendation (Para No. 4)

The Committee note that the percentage utilization of RE allocation of the Department for the Financial Years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 are 99.01%, 99.13%, 96.71% and 99.27% respectively. There is a surrender of Rs 76.86, 73.68, 284.74 and 72.21crore respectively during the years. The high percentage of utilization though is commendable, the Committee suggest that in future, efforts may be made to utilize fully especially funds under capital section to avoid payment of higher amounts due to inflation to complete the works taken under capital section.

Reply of the Government

Two Letters of Authority (LoA) for Rs. 37,40,000 and Rs. 7,27,66,448/- were issued to PAO/CPWD under the object head 'Building & Construction'. Also, two LoAs' for Rs. 7,12,236/- and Rs. 42,72,406/- were issued to PAO/CPWD under the budget head 'Furniture & Fixtures' by Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB), an attached office of this Department. The above amounts were released through LoAs' to PAO/CPWD timely. However, CPWD, without citing any reason, at the fag end of the financial year 2023-24 surrendered Rs. 5.5 cr. under 'Building & Construction' and Rs. 1.5 lac under 'Furniture & Fixtures'. This was the primary cause of the savings under Capital added with minor un-utilizations in other object heads of both Head Quarters & ASRB. The Department is committed to fully utilize allocated funds through monthly monitoring during senior officers meeting.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Promotion of Climate Resilient Farming

Recommendation (Para No. 5)

Variability in weather and climate change alongwith degraded soil and depleting water resources are some of the major challenges confronting Indian Agriculture. The Committee have been apprised that 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 The Committee note that Rs. 252.16 crore has been allocated to Natural Resources Management and National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) Division in BE 2024-25 which is more than the allocations of Rs. 240.00 crore in BE 2023-24 and Rs. 239.98 crore in RE 2023-24. The Division had utilized 99.99% of allocated funds at RE during the Financial Year 2023-24. The Committee, while appreciating the efforts of the DARE/ICAR, are of the view that more appropriate steps are required to be taken to promote Climate Resilient Farming by giving priority to Research for development of location-specific, cost-effective, eco-friendly Climate Resilient Practices and Technologies and their dissemination and demonstration on large scale in the country so that adverse impact of climate change on Indian Agriculture is minimized and food and nutritional security of the nation is maintained.

Reply of the Government

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed and disseminated sustainable climate resilient technologies viz., integrated farming systems, resilient intercropping systems, conservation agriculture, crop diversification from paddy to other alternate crops like pulses, oilseeds, agroforestry systems, zero till drill sowing, alternate methods of rice cultivation, green manuring, integrated farming systems, integrated nutrient and pest management, organic farming, site specific nutrient management, in-situ moisture conservation, micro irrigation etc., these technologies have been demonstrated and disseminated in 151 vulnerable districts in 468 climate resilient villages in the country. Climate research and technology development is strengthened under National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) to develop location specific, cost effective and ecofriendly practices to minimize the adverse impact of climate change on one hand and food security on other hand. Research efforts have been made to conduct block level risk and vulnerability assessment in Orissa and Maharashtra. The demonstration of climate resilient technologies and capacity building programs on climate resilient agriculture has been focussed to cater more number of farmers.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Agricultural Engineering

Recommendation (Para No. 6)

The Committee note that Rs. 91.24 crore has been allocated to Agriculture Engineering Division in BE 2024-25 which is more than the allocations of Rs. 65.00 Crore in BE 2023-24 and Rs. 70.09 Crore in RE 2023-24. The Committee have been apprised that the allocation of Rs. 70.09 Crore in RE 2023-24 for the Agricultural Engineering Division was fully utilized by the end of the Financial Year 2023-24. Further, the BE allocation of Agricultural Engineering Division has been enhanced during 2024-25 to take up advanced areas of research like development of robotics, Artificial intelligence, sensors and systems for quality and safety assessment and IoT based farm/post-harvest technologies etc. They appreciate that out of 432 technologies developed, 212 technologies have been commercialised resulting in availability of higher efficiency machines with less drudgery and user friendly machines. The Committee hope that as in the past, this year also the Department will be able to spend the entire enhanced allocations for the said purpose.

Reply of the Government

The Agricultural Engineering Division has planned and placed all efforts to fully utilize the allocated amount (Rs 91.24 crore) for the year 2024-25 like last year. The Division had utilized 99.98% of the allocated funds during the financial year 2023-24.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Animal Science

Recommendation (Para No. 8)

The Committee note that Rs. 415.15 crore has been allocated to Animal Science Division in BE 2024-25 which is substantially higher than the allocations of Rs. 300.00 crore in BE 2023-24 and Rs. 306.72 crore in RE 2023-24. The Committee have been apprised that the research on veterinary biologicals in the ICAR has led to successful eradication of important diseases *viz,.* Rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia from the country. ICAR has developed vaccines for economically important diseases for cattle in the country *viz.,* Foot and Mouth Disease, Anthrax Spore, Black Quarter (BQ), Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS), Brucella Abortus (S-19 Strain), Buffalo pox, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis and Lumpy Skin Disease. The Committee have also been apprised that the Department has planned to utilize increased funds for creating infrastructure and advanced research on development of new generation vaccines, identification of indigenous livestock, genome editing and animal genomics studies etc. for improved animal health and production in the Country. The Committee are of the considered view that Animal Husbandry sub-sector is one of the promising sources for improving farm incomes and every rupee spent on livestock sub-sector's research and development yields much better returns. The Committee, therefore, while appreciating the Department for enhancing the allocation under Animal Science Division, recommend that emphasis should be given to research for enhancing productivity as well as ensuring animal health so as to increase the income of farmers and contribute immensely to the growth of the Indian Economy.

Reply of the Government

The Animal Science Division has aligned research priorities to enhance animal productivity and health to benefit farmers and contribute to the growth of the Indian economy. To advance the research and development initiatives further in animal sciences, four All India Network programs have been initiated recently namely One Health approach to Zoonotic Diseases (Outlay of Rs. 11.80 crores); Challenging and Emerging Diseases of Livestock (Outlay of Rs. 11.20 crores), Advanced research project on Canines (Outlay of Rs. 17.50 crores) and Application of Genome Editing Technology for Improvement in Livestock Health and Production (Outlay of Rs. 40.00 crores). These projects have been initiated to address various issues such as emerging livestock diseases including zoonotic infections, genome editing to augment production and productivity including development of new generation

vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics. During last 10 years the major contribution of the division for the livestock sector includes, characterization of 105 populations of livestock and poultry species, registered 75 indigenous animal breeds, 1 synthetic cattle and 2 chicken strains, Gazette notification of 220 indigenous animal breeds and developed 19 veterinary medical devices Cryopreserved germplasm for 40 indigenous animal breeds in form of semen and for 68 breeds/populations in form of somatic cells, produced 45.78 lakhs doses of frozen semen of elite germplasm of cattle and buffalo, developed seven improved rural chicken varieties and distributed 1.50 crore improved chicken and duck germplasm to the farmers across the country, developed 65 dairy products/ processes and commercialized 96 technologies to different dairy firms.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Agricultural Education

Recommendation (Para No. 11)

The Committee note that Rs. 398.74 crore has been earmarked for Agricultural Education Division in BE 2024-25 which is about 22% more than the allocated amount of Rs. 322.74 Crore in BE and RE 2023-24. The Committee feel that there is a need to strengthen Agricultural Education in the country and the enhancement of allocation for Agricultural Education is a welcome step. Since most of the Farmers and Agricultural labourers are 10^{th} – 12^{th} class dropouts, it is imperative that the Department take steps for introduction of Agriculture related basic education at school level also. Further, the Committee desire that the Department take steps for strengthening higher agricultural education in the country by having sufficient number of qualified teachers in Agriculture colleges and universities, provision of scholarship for all students to attract talented students to Agriculture Institutions and Universities, student-faculty exchange programme with foreign countries etc.

Reply of the Government

Agricultural Higher Education in the country is being strengthened with enhancement in number of ICAR All India Quota seats from 15% to 20% in Undergraduate (UG) and from 25% to 30% in Postgraduate (PG) and Doctoral (Ph.D.) degree programmes. All the Agricultural Universities have also been advised to increase the number of seats every year by 10% in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to enhance the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER). To attract students to higher agricultural education and to achieve educational excellence in teaching and research in agriculture and allied science subjects, ICAR supports the students of UG, PG and Ph.D. by awarding different scholarships/fellowships. School education comes under the purview of NCERT, and ICAR is a part of the team of NCERT providing support for introduction of Agriculture related basic education at school level. ICAR is formulating guidelines for Dual-degree, Joint-degree and twining program to have more students exchange programs with foreign countries.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Problems in implementation of Agricultural Research Programmes

Recommendation (Para No. 12)

The Committee suggest that they may be provided a status report on the problems faced in implementation of Agricultural Research Programmes/ output of the Agricultural Research by Agriculture Research Institutes/ICAR.

Reply of the Government

A. Research Programme Implementation Level

- **Strengthening of infrastructure of ICAR Institutes:**

i) The Institutes have contributed significantly in the food and nutritional security and were the hubs for ushering the green revolution in the country. During post revolution era each Institute has contributed land mark technologies leading to self-sufficiency in food grains. Now the agricultural education has also been initiated in most of the Institute through Education Hubs as part of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi (the Deemed to be University). To upgrade their laboratories for their NABL accreditation, field facilities and other essential infrastructure like students basic amenities (hostels, class rooms, sports) for making them competitive with

global institutions, one time grant for Renovation of more than 60 years old Institutions.

ii) There is urgent need for one-time grant for the renovation of the building/infrastructure and other facilities at the institutes which are more than 50 years old.

iii) Shortage of scientific, administrative and supporting manpower at all the institutes. Over the years, the cadre strength of scientific, technical and other support staff has depleted which is affecting the focused research work.

- **State-of-the art research facilities for animal Science Research:** Limited Infrastructure is available for advanced research for molecular and vaccine development, whcih needs to upgraded with equipment to carry out state-of-the art research at par with developed countries. Very few laboratories have been accredited by various agencies such as NABL.
- **Geographical and Infrastructural Limitations**: Some institutes are located in a remote and hilly region; the institute faces logistical difficulties in conducting large-scale field trials due to availability of farmers in very remote area.
- **Strengthening breeder seed production centres:** ICAR Seed Project was launched during 2005-06, where processing plant and normal storage facilities were provided. All 65 centres under ICAR need state of art facilities like processing plant, temperature and humidity controlled seed stores, covered threshing floors, and precision irrigation system**.**
- **State of art DNA Fingerprinting Facility for Seeds and Planting Material:** Establishment of Central DNA Finger Printing Laboratory at ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi and Regional DNA Fingerprinting laboratories under ICAR for checking the infringement and spurious quality of seed. The farmers are cheated in the name of quality seed where the seed quality and genetic purity both are compromised and many times the same variety is sold by different names finally duping the farmers which miserable condition of the farmers. To check this malpractice in seed, a establishment of national level Central DNA Fingerprinting Facility for Agri-Horticultural Crops with state of art facilities for ensuring genetic purity (quality) and varietal identity (check to misbranding) of a varieties through molecular tools ensuring good quality seed to the farmers. Assured quality seed, with desired level of genetic purity impacting at least 20% productivity will be a boon to the small holding farmers who are cheated by the seed suppliers.

- **Establishing Quarantine Facilities for screening of imported germplasm:** To enhance the productivity of oilseeds and pulse crops, large number of exotic germplasm is proposed. Before release of the exotic germplasm to the breeders, this material is grown under quarantine facility for screening against any exotic disease or insect**.**
- **Trained human resource:** Human resource challenges, such as a shortage of skilled researchers, and insufficient trainings in cutting edge research areas. Technologically, new advancements and approaches need to be implemented on priority. Limited opportunities are for the scientists to visit recognized advanced laboratories, colleges, universities etc. abroad for research.
- **Funding for cutting edge research:** For achieving the targets set for Viksit Bharat, adoption of new scientific tools and technologies are the need of hour for which enhanced funding is required. Continuous ensured funding for cutting edge research including upgradation of research equipment, trained human resource and chemicals and consumables for achieving proposed targets facing the challenge of climate change, shrinking cultivable areas, depleting water, degrading soils and emerging insect pests.

B. Implementation of Research Outcome Level:

- **Frequent vacancies in AICRPs:** All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) of different crops are having their centres in the State Agricultural Universities with approved scientific and other cadre manpower. Of the total salary of the staff and contingent grant for research; 75% is being given by the ICAR and remaining 25% share comes from the state. Frequent transfers of scientific staff and engaging those posted under AICRPs in other activities of the University, hamper the research activities and slow down the process of research achievements.
- **Decreasing role of Public Sector Seed Agencies:** Shrinking share of public sector in total quality seed available to the farmers due to decreasing breeder seed demand and its further downstream multiplication towards foundation and certified seed. States are not coming forward to give the indents of breeder seed as per Seed Rolling Plan and depend on private sector produced seed that too procured through tender system. For quality seed production, one has to take breeder seed, which is multiplied to foundation, then certified seed, and is sold for cultivation during the third year. Without proper seed rolling plan, indenting breeder seed of required varieties three

years in advance, supplying the huge quantity of quality seed of a particular variety before season cannot be relied upon.

- **Control on Un-notified Varieties and Truthfully Labelled Seed:** System for quality control of Truthfully Labelled Seed (TL) at production and post production stage and un-notified (research varieties/ hybrids) varieties/hybrids is major deterrent in taking the high yielding trait specific varieties to farmers fields.
- **Incentivizing adoption of biofortified and trait specific varieties:** Farmers always opt for higher yields leading to higher returns. Incentives for growing biofortified and special trait varieties will encourage farmers to grow these varieties which will help in enhanced productivity and quality grains. Farm gate processing and value chain development will help in increasing farmers' income.
- **Strengthening extension system through modern digital technologies:** Farmers' reluctance or slow adoption of balanced dose of fertilizers, plant protection measures to control pest, diseases and weeds and mechanization etc. is leading to yield gaps interms of potential of varieties and farmer to farmer variation across the states.
- **Lack of coordination among various agencies:** Limited coordination among various stakeholders (ICAR, SAUs and private sector) leading to fragmentation of responsibilities, duplication of efforts and inefficiencies affecting their efficiency, scalability, and impact.
- **Supply and quality control of bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers:** Bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides are getting more importance and are integral part of both organic and inorganic agriculture. The quality assurance has been a major challenge in large scale adoption of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides. Proper production and supply of quality bio-products will help in production of safe food keeping the environment clean. This will bring a revolution in organic farming and promote "Less Chemical" agriculture.
- Shortage of manpower in the states implementing agencies were felt for implementation of the research output.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

<u>Agricultural Targets for 2047</u>

Recommendation (Para No. 13)

The Committee would like to be apprised of the targets set for various parameters in Agricultural and allied Sectors to be achieved by 2047 as part of *Viksit Bharat.* Further, they also want the short term targets fixed in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Target of ICAR from 2024-25 to 2047

Crop Science

- Developing of 3500 high yielding, climate resilient, nutritionally rich, input responsive varieties with special emphasis on oilseeds and pulses using modern breeding tools including genome editing; and use of trait specific germplasm.
- Identification of new genes and generation of genomic resources including fine mapping, cloning, characterization and functional validation of novel genes and promotors involved in biotic and abiotic stress tolerance, quality and enhanced productivity and their commercialized along with IP protection -160
- Production and supply of 30.00 lakh quintal of breeder seed
- Development of 285 rapid diagnostic tools and AI based digital forewarning systems for management of emerging insect-pests and diseases
- Innovations in terms of 1350 Improved Technologies, product, processes, methodologies etc.
- Registration of 2000 elite trait specific germplasm with National Gene Bank.
- Initiating research programme to develop crop cultivate that can be grown in space under Gaganyan and other space explorations.

Hort. Science

- Attaining 950 million tons targeted production of horticultural crops.
- Attaining productivity of horticultural crops at 35t/ha.
- Developing and providing technology support for bringing 50% production from the protected production conditions.
- Standardizing & providing technology support for generating 300 million tons export-oriented production of horticultural crops.
- Standardizing and providing technology support for converting 250 million tons produce into processed and value-added products of horticultural crops.

Animal Science

- Complete self-sufficiency in veterinary vaccines and diagnostics (Make in India approach) through Development 55 Drugs / New vaccines and 200 diagnostic kits.
- Development of 12 genome edited livestock & poultry for enhanced production; and pathogens for production of vaccines and diagnostics.
- Evaluation and characterization of 320 genetic resources.
- Registration of 300 new breeds/ varieties.
- Development of 160 feeding modules for GHG mitigation/ production enhancement, 100 probiotics/ herbal based therapeutics and 300 value added products and processes.
- Develop 10 AI based technologies in livestock.
- Sero-surveillance/monitoring, 50 lakhs samples testing for diseases.
- Production and distribution of 400 lakhs chicks and 8 lakhs Piglets/ Sheep/ Goat/ Rabbit.
- Development of infrastructure for producing sex-sorted semen at Animal Breeding Research Centre.
- Production of 130 lakhs Semen doses.
- To achieve an average productivity of 140 eggs per bird under backyard system of rearing and 300 eggs per bird per year in commercial poultry by 2047.

Agri. Engg.

- Development of 176 new equipment/ machinery/ technology
- Development of 102 value-added food, fibre and other agricultural allied products
- Conducting study on Status of Farm Mechanization of the country in different states
- Frontline demonstrations of 500 different equipment/ machinery covering 10000 ha area
- Licensing of 115 technologies
- Patent/copy right of 95 applications
- Establishment of National Institute on Agricultural Robotics and AI

Fisheries Science

- In 2047, the country is projected to produce 40 mmt of fish of which 8.0 mmt will be contributed from capture fisheries and 32.0 mmt from aquaculture side.
- By 2030, the production is estimated to be at 24.0 mmt including 6.0 mmt from capture and 18.0 mmt from aquaculture.

Agri. Education

- A revised curriculum has been devised and implemented for agriculture students from the academic session 2024-25 to prepare them for new challenges as part of *Viksit Bharat* in alignment with New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 focusing on outcome-based learning and entrepreneurship.
- Thorough various initiative and measures of Human Resource Management, ICAR is preparing scientists and teachers for 21st century skills in agriculture & allied sectors through competency-based capacity building programs and incentives through various fellowship and exchange programs.

Agri. Extension

- Customized farm advisory and extension delivery through Block Chain technology for traceability.
- Futuristic, demand-based production and consumption facilitated by Real-time Collectives.
- Full access to Cyber Physical Systems vis-à-vis using AI, Machine Learning, Big Data Analytics Problem- Solving & Real- Time Personalized Advisory and policy support.
- Pathways options for resilience against multiple stressors.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.16 of Chapter I of this Report.

CHAPTER – III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

-NIL-

CHAPTER IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)

Recommendation (Para No. 9)

The Committee note that Agricultural Extension Division has been allocated Rs. 234.89 crore in BE 2024-25 which is less than the allocation of Rs. 327.00 crore made in BE 2023-24 and the Actual Expenditure of Rs. 248.49 crore incurred during the year 2023-24. 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 KVK. Also only 15 new KVKs have been opened during the last five years. Besides, there are inadequate infrastructure in several of the existing KVKs and about 30% of the sanctioned posts are vacant in KVKs across the country. In view of the foregoing, the Committee feel that the reduction in allocation in BE 2024-25 to Agriculture Extension Division is not a step in the right direction. The Committee are of the considered view that there should be atleast one KVK with adequate infrastructure and sufficient manpower in each district of the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take steps for enhancing allocation to Agriculture Extension Division to achieve the desired goal.

Reply of the Government

The total allocation of the Scheme “Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)” for the period 2021-26 is Rs.1202.45 Crore. Additionally, the Host Organization and Krishi Vigyan Kendras are also provided with funds from various other Ministries/Departments of the Central Government as well as the respective State Governments. There are 766 districts in the country, wherein 731 KVKs are

existing across the country and the 15 new KVKs have been opened during the last five years.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.10 of Chapter I of this Report

Recommendation (Para No. 10)

The Committee note that the KVKs play an important role in extension services. The benefits of the research and innovations in the field of agriculture reach to the farmers by KVKs through demonstration and dissemination of information about new varieties, practices and technologies. The Committee desire the Department to make the training/extension services at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) more broad-based and inclusive by including Fishery, Animal Husbandry and other related subjects and also by covering more number of farmers without frequently repeating the same group of farmers for training and other extension services.

Reply of the Government

KVKs organize training programmes for farmers on various facets of agriculture and allied sectors including fisheries, animal husbandry, horticulture, agro-forestry, agricultural engineering, etc. The KVKs trained 0.38 lakh farmers in fisheries, 1.68 lakh farmers in animal husbandry, 2.39 lakh farmers in horticulture, 0.21 lakh farmers in agro-forestry and 0.72 lakh farmers in agricultural engineering during 2023-24. Besides, the KVKs organized 6.19 lakh extension activities on various facets of agriculture and allied sectors with participation of 200.58 lakh farmers. Since most of the farmers are engaged in multiple activities across agriculture and allied sectors, therefore same group of farmers may participate in more than one activity of KVKs covering different subject areas.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.13 of Chapter I of this Report

CHAPTER V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Crop Science

Recommendation (Para No. 7)

The Committee note that Rs. 930.22 crore has been allocated to Crop Science Division in BE 2024-25 which is more than the allocation of Rs. 714.41 in BE 2023-24 but less than the allocation of Rs. 962.78 crore in RE 2023-24 and Actual Expenditure of Rs. 930.62 crore during the Financial Year 2023-24. The Committee also 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. At the same time, the Committee also note that several of these high yielding varieties of crops 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. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to optimally and effectively utilize the allocation made to this Division and lay emphasis on developing crop varieties having better productivity while retaining qualities in terms of taste, flavor, shelf life, nutrients, environment friendliness etc.

Reply of the Government

Crop Science Division has placed all efforts to achieve physical targets of the scheme “Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security” with optimal utilization of allocated funds. To address the current and predicted challenges of agricultural crop sector, modern technological tools like genome editing, genomics selection, speed breeding are used on development of resource use efficient, extreme climate resilient and biofortified varieties for field crops and for the enhancement of varietal replacement rates for addressing the gaps in productivity and sustainable production. Successful efforts made in the past on special trait varieties includes development of 152 Bio-fortified varieties, heat tolerant varieties in wheat developed in major wheat growing areas of the country. The 14 rice varieties released and notified during 2024 with

input use efficient traits. Efforts are made toward improving fodder and grain quality and shelf life of millets. Further, more focused efforts are made for addressing the issues of yield, short shelf life, tastelessness, flavor, nutrients, high consumption of inputs, degradation of soil and water, environment degradation etc. on priority through the various programs under the scheme.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's F. No. 7(7)/2024-PIM Dated 30th January, 2025]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.7 of Chapter I of this Report

NEW DELHI;
18 August, 2025
27 Shravana, 1947 (Saka)

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

Annexure

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2024-25)

The Committee sat on Monday, the 18th August, 2025 from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Committee Room No. 3, Block-A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe (EPHA), New Delhi.

Present

Shri Charanjit Singh Channi – Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Umeshbhai Babubhai Patel
3. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
4. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
5. Shri Rajpalsinh Mahendrasinh Jadav
6. Md. Abu Taher Khan
7. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
8. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
9. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
10. Shri Murasoli S.
11. Shri Dharambir Singh
12. Shri Sudhakar Singh
13. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
14. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor
15. Shri Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure

Rajya Sabha

16. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
17. Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha
18. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
19. Shri Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav Patil
20. Shri Madan Rathore
21. Shri Ramji Lal Suman
22. Shri P.P. Suneer

Secretariat

1.	Shri Dhiraj Kumar	–	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Maheshwar	–	Director
3.	Shri Prem Ranjan	-	Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee *xxxxxx. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration and adoption the following Reports:

(i) *xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx;

(ii) *xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx;

(iii) *xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx;

(iv) *xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx;

(v) *xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx;

(vi) Draft Action-taken Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 2nd Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) presented during 18th Lok Sabha;

(vii) *xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx;

(viii) *xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx.

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the Draft Report without any modifications and the Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize and present the Report to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

* Matter not related to this Report

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SECOND REPORT (18TH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2024-25)

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

(i)	Total Number of Recommendations	13
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted By the Government Para Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,11,12 and 13	Total 10 Percentage 76.92%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Para No. NIL	Total 00 Percentage 0.00%
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Para Nos. 9 and 10	Total 02 Percentage 15.38%
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited Para No. 7	Total 01 Percentage 7.69%