

**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)**

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

**SEVENTEENTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**August, 2025 / Shravana, 1947 (Saka)**

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

20.08.2025  
20.08.2025



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

***August, 2025 / Shravana, 1947 (Saka)***

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**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
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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
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17. Shri Sudhakar Singh
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20. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor
21. Shri Bhausahab 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

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*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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

2. The Eighth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' 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 12 March, 2025. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 16 May, 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 Eighth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix**.

**NEW DELHI;**  
**18 August , 2025**  
**27Shravana, 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 Eighth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) 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 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

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:<br>Recommendation Para Nos. 2,4,5,8,9,10 and 12                                     | Total - 07<br>Chapter II   |
| (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:<br>Recommendation Para No. NIL               | Total - NIL<br>Chapter III |
| (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:<br>Recommendation Para Nos. 11 and 13 | Total- 02<br>Chapter IV    |
| (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited.<br>Recommendation Para Nos. 1,3,6 and 7                | Total - 04<br>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. Budgetary Allocation**

##### **RECOMMENDATION (PARA NO.3)**

1.5 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

“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 Institute.”

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

“Department has allocated funds for repair and maintenance to ICAR-CIARI for EFC Period 2021-26. In addition, need/demand-based request under this Head is considered in respective Annual Plan periods including justified demands under Corpus Fund Scheme. A onetime catch-up grant for building and related infrastructure for ICAR-CIARI shall be considered during the next EFC (2026-31) period.”

**1.7 The Committee, while sympathetic to the demand of the Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram(Port Blair) for a one-time special grant for the major renovations and repair of the laboratories, office and residential buildings, had recommended 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 Institute. The Department, in its Action Taken Reply, has submitted about allocation of funds for repair and maintenance to ICAR-CIARI for EFC Period 2021-26 and consideration of need/demand-based request under this Head in respective Annual Plan periods including justified demands under Corpus Fund Scheme. The Department has also submitted that a one-time catch-up grant for building and related infrastructure for the Institute shall be considered during the next EFC (2026-31), which in view of the Committee, would be a step in right direction. The Committee also hope that the Department would be taking all necessary action for grant of requisite amount to the Institute at the earliest so that renovations and repairs of the buildings could be done on time.

## **B. Agricultural Engineering**

### **RECOMMENDATION (PARA NO. 6)**

1.8 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

“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.”

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

“The Research Centre for Makhana (Darbhanga) is in operation under the ICAR-Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana as per approved scheme “Agriculture Production and Post-Production

Mechanisation Augmented with Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Development” for the 2020-21 to 2025-26 period. The proposal for restoration of national status of Makhana Centre along with deployment of manpower has been submitted to Ministry of Finance for concurrence.

The Research Centre for Makhana has played a significant role in enhancing makhana yield, quality and sustainability in production and processing through development of high-yielding makhana variety (Swarna Vaidehi). The field system introducing of makhana cultivation with improved package of practices has led to higher yield and better quality, along with rapid area expansion under makhana cultivation.

Several equipment/machines for Makhana roasting, popping and value-added products have been developed and licensed to manufacturers for commercialization namely Makhana seed washer, Makhana seed grader, Makhana seed primary roasting machine, Makhana seed popping machine, Popped Makhana grader and various types of value-added products.

The Centre has collaborated with Government Institutions, state agencies, educational institutions and private enterprises to support and provide technical know-how in production and processing of makhana and water chestnut. The centre has trained thousands of farmers and entrepreneurs, driving regional industries and livelihoods. The cultivation of Makhana has expanded from approximately 13,000 to 35,000 hectares across multiple states.

Training cum Incubation Centre has been started and a laboratory is being set up for quality assessment of Makhana. Mechanization is promoted for rapidity and better hygiene of the processed products, quality high yielding seeds is distributed for improving yield and quality of the processed makhana products. Regular training on production, processing, value addition and marketing of Makhana are rendered to farmers and entrepreneurs.”

**1.10 Concerned with the non-availability of sufficient machinery and equipment for harvesting and processing of Makhana, the Committee had recommended to make the functioning of Makhana Research Institute at Darbhanga, Bihar effective by providing resources and manpower for the successful implementation of the proposal for setting up of Makhana Board,**

as announced in the Budget 2025-26, to improve production, processing, value addition and marketing of Makhana. The Department, in its Action Taken Reply, has submitted about the role played by the Research Centre for Makhana (Darbhanga) in enhancing yield, quality and sustainability in production and processing through development of high-yielding Makhana variety and introduction of the field system of Makhana cultivation with improved package of practices; development of equipment/machines for roasting, popping and value-added products; collaboration with Government Institutions, State Agencies, educational institutions and private enterprises to support and provide technical know-how in production and processing of Makhana; training of farmers and entrepreneurs; starting of Training cum Incubation Centre; promotion of mechanization of rapidity and better hygiene; distribution of quality high yielding seeds, etc. The Department has also submitted that the proposal for restoration of national status of Makhana Centre along with deployment of manpower has been submitted to Ministry of Finance for concurrence and a laboratory is being set up for quality assessment of Makhana. The Committee desire the Department to pursue vigorously with the Ministry of Finance for their concurrence to the proposal of the Department and also to expedite setting up of the laboratory for quality assessment of Makhana so that the aims and objectives envisaged in establishment of Makhana Board in Bihar are realized fully. The Committee may also be informed about the progress made in the matter.

### **C. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)**

#### **RECOMMENDATION (PARA NO. 11)**

1.11 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

“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 121 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.”

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

“Presently 731 KVKs are functional in the country spearheading frontline extension system. “Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) Scheme” has been extended for a period of 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 under XV Finance Commission with a provision for establishment of KVKs in 121 new districts of the country without a single KVK. KVKs are also functional in aspirational districts.

- (i) The filling up of vacancies in the KVKs is a continuous process and is the responsibility of the respective Host Organisation. As per the KVK scheme, the approved posts of the KVKs are filled as per the recruitment policies and procedures of the respective Host Organisation with the educational qualifications as laid down by ICAR. All the Host Organizations have been requested to fill up the vacant posts immediately.
- (ii) The revised mandate of KVK as has been approved in EFC 2021-26 is to act as Single Window Knowledge, Resource and Capacity Development Centre. Accordingly, the mandated activities are revised including (i) Strengthening technology demonstration and promotion; supporting entrepreneurs and farmers' organizations through Public Private Partnership (PPP), (ii) Dissemination of technologies specific for various agro-climatic zones and training and capacity building for their larger adoption, (iii) Reorienting the KVKs as knowledge and information centres for providing farmer-centric digital solutions and services, (iv) Ensuring availability of quality seeds, planting materials and other technological inputs to the farmers in PPP mode, (v) Creating mass awareness and community mobilization for nature-friendly and climate resilient agriculture and allied sectors.
- (iii) KVKs are equipped with advanced technologies for effective demonstration to the farmers and other stakeholders. KVK demonstrate agri-drone application, precision farming technologies, micro irrigation and protected cultivation technologies. KVKs are also engaged in customised agro-advisories to the farmers through ICT led Kisan Sarathi portal.
- (iv) New version of KVK 2.0 as proposed is the need of the hour looking into the backdrop of climate change vulnerabilities. KVKs are also implementing several central sector schemes in convergence with the other departments and ministries. Funds are also mobilised from these departments. The enhanced

funding for the Strengthening of KVK Scheme will be asked for the financial cycle 2026-27 to 2030-31.

- (v) KVKs have focus on climate resilient agriculture at the field level under the aegis of National Innovations for Climate Resilience Agriculture (NICRA) covering the Climate Smart Village clusters is being provided in 151 most vulnerable districts of the country. The interventions also include training and capacity development of the stakeholders for promotion of climate resilient agriculture. Collaboration with private partners are also being undertaken to have not only with other public partners but also taking private sector in the loop.
- (vi) KVKs have been advised to involve the public representatives in their mandated activities interventions. KVKs are already involving public representatives in their mandate activities. Many public representatives have recently participated in the events like Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, launch of instalments of PMKISAN etc.”

**1.13 The Committee, while desiring to be apprised of the reasons for not setting up of even a single KVK in 121 districts, had suggested the Department to address, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the issue of the shortage of skilled personnel in KVKs, streamlining of administrative processes of KVKs to improve their operational effectiveness, equipping KVKs with advanced/cutting edge technologies, improving funding to KVKs, focus of KVKs on climate resilient agriculture through targeted training programmes and promote convergence with private sector initiatives for resource sharing, working of KVKs in close tandem with State Government and invariably informing Public Representatives like MPs, MLAs, MLCs, etc. regarding their upcoming events in advance for seamless coordination and wider outreach. The Department, in its Action Taken Reply, has submitted about the number of KVKs functional in the country, extension of ‘Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) Scheme’ for a period of 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 under XV Finance Commission with a provision for establishment of KVKs in 121 new districts of the country with a single KVK, process of filling of vacancies in the KVKs, revised mandate of KVK as approved in EFC 2021-26, need of new version of KVK 2.0, equipping of KVKs with advanced technologies, focus of KVK on climate resilient agriculture at the field level under the aegis of National Innovations for Climate Resilience**

**Agriculture (NICRA) and advisory issued to KVKs to involve the Public Representatives in their mandated activities interventions. However, the Committee note that the reply of the Department is not satisfactory and, on some points, vague and very casual in nature. The Department has not stated anything about the reasons for not setting up of even a single KVK in 121 districts of the country. The sentence referring extension of ‘Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) Scheme’ under XV Finance Commission seems ambiguous and needs clarity in view of the fact that only 15 new KVKs have been opened during the last five years. Further, the issues of the shortage of skilled personnel in many KVKs and improving the funding to the KVKs have not been addressed properly in the replies. Also, the contention of the Department that KVKs are equipped with advanced technologies for effective demonstration to the farmers and other stakeholders is out of sync with ground realities. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation as stated above in Para 1.11.**

#### **D. Manpower in ICAR Institutes**

##### **RECOMMENDATION (PARA NO. 13)**

1.14 The Committee had observed/recommended:-

“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 Institutes, 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.”

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

“The Recruitment of various positions in different cadre (Scientists, Technical, Administrative and Finance) is a continuous process which is done in a timely manner by taking advance actions, wherever possible. ICAR keeps on making all efforts for filling up of vacant posts, as and when vacancies arise. The recruitment of 621



scientific positions have been completed and 458 positions have already been notified by Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB). Recruitment of 802 Positions of Technician (T-I) (Level-3) and 190 positions of Senior Technical officers (STO)/ Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) (T-6) (Level-I0) have been completed. Recruitment of 124 positions in the grade of STO/ SMS and approx.1200 positions of T-3 (Level-5) have been forwarded to ASRB for direct recruitment. Vacancies in the grade of AO/FAO and Assistant have recently been filled through Direct Recruitment, and efforts are also made to fill the vacancies caused due to non-joining of successful candidates. Recruitment Examination for the posts of Assistant Director (Official language) has also been conducted. The Council has also taken steps towards filling up the DR vacancies on a yearly basis.”

**1.16 Taking note of the fact 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 had recommended the Department to fill up these vacant posts at the earliest for the smooth and more meaningful functioning of these Institutes. The Department, in its Action Taken Reply, has submitted that the recruitment of various positions in different cadre is a continuous process and ICAR keeps on making all efforts for filling up of vacant posts. The Department has also submitted that some posts have recently been filled through Direct Recruitment, for some recruitments have been completed; for some Recruitment Examination have been conducted; for some notification has been issued and for some requests have been forwarded to Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB) for direct recruitment. However, the Committee note that even after the completion of recruitment processes of all the instances mentioned in the reply of the Department, a large number of vacant posts in different cadres will still remain unfilled leave aside vacancy caused due to superannuation and other factors. The Committee also note that despite having an independent recruitment agency the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB), the Department has not fixed any definite timeline to fill all the vacant posts in the Institutes of ICAR. The matter of vacant positions in the Institutes is also serious as these vacancies have been continuing for past several years adversely affecting the functioning of**

**these Institutes. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation to 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.**

## **CHAPTER II**

### **Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government Budgetary Allocation**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

An approximate amount of Rs. 3.16 crore has been utilized in the FY 2024-25 under Capital Section. The shortfall under Capital head is mainly under Object Head "Furniture and Fixtures" on account of surrender of Rs. 41.32 lakhs Letter of Authority (LoA) amount by CPWD at fag end of the FY 2024-25 and some amount of less utilization under "Information, Computer, Tele (ICT)" of ASRB. New building for Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board (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 is required to be paid in FY 2025-26.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

## **Allocations Under Scheme Head**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4)**

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.

### **Reply of the Government**

As per Pr. AO Expenditure Statement, the Scheme Budget utilized for F.Y. 2024-25 is Rs. 295862.81 lakh as against RE 2024-25 is of Rs.301182.00 lakh. Therefore, fund utilization is of 98.23%, highlighting the optimum utilization of budget allocated for the current F.Y. 2024-25. The Department is committed to make concerted efforts for efficient and complete utilization of the allocations for the coming fiscal years.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

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

### **Recommendation (Para No. 5)**

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.

### **Reply of the Government**

The budget and activities for Natural Resource Management (NRM) including NICRA has been already approved by the Cabinet for the EFC (2020-21 to 2025-26) with a total budget allocation of Rs. 1115.05 Crores, for the predefined activities of research for development of technologies for natural resource management. The activities are carried out as per approved EFC (2020-21 to 2025-26). Since, 2025-26 is the last year of EFC, the activities are carried out as per approved plan, so, budget may not be a constraint for effective functioning of activities related to NRM including NICRA.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

### **Horticulture Science**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 8)**

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.

### **Reply of the Government**

Department has due emphasis of research on conservation and development of indigenous medicinal herbs and plants under the ICAR-Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research (ICAR-DMAPR), Ananad, Gujarat & the ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru (ICAR-IIHR). Presently a total of 15 medicinal and aromatic plants namely aloe, ashwagandha, giloe, guggal, isabgol, safed musli, senna, kalmegh, satavari, salparni, betelvine (*Piper betle*), mandukaparni (*Centella asiatica*), bhringraj (*Eclipta alba*), lemongrass & palmarosa are under taken for research.

- A total of 2,326 germplasm accessions have been collected, maintained/ and are utilized in crop improvement programmes for breeding of improved varieties of MAPs. Further, a total of 672 germplasm resources of herbal medicinal plants such as mandukaparni (28), gurmar (53), shankhpushpi (86), kalmegh (51), brahmi (115), aloe vera (30), betel vine (109) and one herbal garden with nearly 200 different medicinal herb & aromatic plants species have been maintained under field gene banks. The location-specific R&D is carried out on more than 60 medicinal herb & aromatic plants through 26 centres spread across 20 states of the Country
- So far, a total of 34 improved varieties; five in asalio, four each in isabgol, ashwagandha and betel vine; two each in velvet bean, mandukparnee, kalmegh and holy basil/tulsi (*Ocimum tenuiflorum*); and, one each in Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) mandukaparni, lal chitrak, bach, lemongrass, opium poppy, shatavari, madhunashini and makoi have been identified for cultivation under different agroclimatic conditions.
- In all, Good Agricultural Practices have been standardized for 27 medicinal and aromatic plants under varied agroclimatic conditions.
- During the year 2019-20 to 2023-24, a total of 79 training organised benefitting 7,292 farmers and other stakeholders.
- Department has also entered a tripartite MoU with AYUSH and CSIR, for advancing R&D on medicinal herbs and aromatic plants in the country.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

## **Animal Science**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 9)**

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.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Animal Science Division has utilised 97.8 % of allocated funds during the year 2024-25. The widespread adoption of IVF is hindered by high costs, primarily due to the reliance on imported hormones, media and consumables. ICAR-NDRI, Karnal, is actively engaged in developing affordable, locally produced culture media to reduce dependence on expensive imports. Additionally, fostering and supporting start-ups focused on producing hormones, plastic ware and essential instruments within the country will further drive down costs and enhance accessibility. ICAR aims to make IVF technology more affordable and widely accessible by developing indigenous solutions; ultimately benefiting farmers and strengthening the livestock industry.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

## **Animal Science**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

ICAR has initiated a mission approach for identifying new indigenous populations of livestock, poultry and dog across the country in August 2021. Since then, a total 29 indigenous animal breeds have been registered and Gazette notified. Till date, total 229 indigenous animal breeds have been registered by the ICAR. Further, around 80 breed applications of various livestock, poultry and dog species are under consideration for the registration at ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (Karnal). Among these, around 12-15 breeds to be registered during the current year and around 50 breeds in next 4-5 years. The exploratory survey are conducted by the ICAR- NBAGR in various states/UTs under the Mission, more than 60 new animal populations were identified across the Country. The newly identified populations are characterized by 33 centres in 26 states/UTs under the Network Project (NWP) on Animal Genetic Resources. During 2024-25, the 18 new populations have been characterized.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

### **Agriculture Education**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 12)**

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Agricultural Education Division placed efforts for optimum and effective utilisation of the fund allocation and division utilised 99.7 % fund allocation (RE) during the year 2024-25. An amount of Rs.708.94 crore has been allocated (BE) to the Division for the year 2025-26, which is higher than the BE allocations of Rs. 630.17 crore for the year 2024-25. The enhanced BE allocations during 2025-26 is essential for strengthening and quality assurance Agricultural Education in the country through provision for financial assistance pertaining to student amenities and upgradation of teaching and learning facilities across agricultural universities. This would lead to skilled human resource in agriculture and allied areas.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

## **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. 11)**

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.

### **Reply of the Government**

Presently 731 KVKs are functional in the country spearheading frontline extension system. “Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) Scheme” has been extended for a period of 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 under XV Finance Commission with a provision for establishment of KVKs in 121 new districts of the country without a single KVK. KVKs are also functional in aspirational districts.

- (i) The filling up of vacancies in the KVKs is a continuous process and is the responsibility of the respective Host Organisation. As per the KVK scheme, the approved posts of the KVKs are filled as per the recruitment policies and procedures of the respective Host Organisation with the educational qualifications as laid down by ICAR. All the Host Organizations have been requested to fill up the vacant posts immediately.
- (ii) The revised mandate of KVK as has been approved in EFC 2021-26 is to act as Single Window Knowledge, Resource and Capacity Development Centre. Accordingly, the mandated activities are revised including (i) Strengthening technology demonstration and promotion; supporting entrepreneurs and farmers' organizations through Public Private Partnership (PPP), (ii) Dissemination of technologies specific for various agro-climatic zones and training and capacity building for their larger adoption, (iii) Reorienting the KVKs as knowledge and information centres for providing farmer-centric digital solutions and services, (iv)

Ensuring availability of quality seeds, planting materials and other technological inputs to the farmers in PPP mode, (v) Creating mass awareness and community mobilization for nature-friendly and climate resilient agriculture and allied sectors.

- (iii) KVKs are equipped with advanced technologies for effective demonstration to the farmers and other stakeholders. KVK demonstrate agri-drone application, precision farming technologies, micro irrigation and protected cultivation technologies. KVKs are also engaged in customised agro-advisories to the farmers through ICT led Kisan Sarathi portal.
- (iv) New version of KVK 2.0 as proposed is the need of the hour looking into the backdrop of climate change vulnerabilities. KVKs are also implementing several central sector schemes in convergence with the other departments and ministries. Funds are also mobilised from these departments. The enhanced funding for the Strengthening of KVK Scheme will be asked for the financial cycle 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- (v) KVKs have focus on climate resilient agriculture at the field level under the aegis of National Innovations for Climate Resilience Agriculture (NICRA) covering the Climate Smart Village clusters is being provided in 151 most vulnerable districts of the country. The interventions also include training and capacity development of the stakeholders for promotion of climate resilient agriculture. Collaboration with private partners are also being undertaken to have not only with other public partners but also taking private sector in the loop.
- (vi) KVKs have been advised to involve the public representatives in their mandated activities interventions. KVKs are already involving public representatives in their mandate activities. Many public representatives have recently participated in the events like Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, launch of instalments of PMKISAN etc.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

### **Comments of the Committee**

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

## **Manpower in ICAR Institutes**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 13)**

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.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Recruitment of various positions in different cadre (Scientists, Technical, Administrative and Finance) is a continuous process which is done in a timely manner by taking advance actions, wherever possible. ICAR keeps on making all efforts for filling up of vacant posts, as and when vacancies arise. The recruitment of 621 scientific positions have been completed and 458 positions have already been notified by Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB). Recruitment of 802 Positions of Technician (T-I) (Level-3) and 190 positions of Senior Technical officers (STO)/ Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) (T-6) (Level-I0) have been completed. Recruitment of 124 positions in the grade of STO/ SMS and approx.1200 positions of T-3 (Level-5) have been forwarded to ASRB for direct recruitment. Vacancies in the grade of AO/FAO and Assistant have recently been filled through Direct Recruitment, and efforts are also made to fill the vacancies caused due to non-joining of successful candidates. Recruitment Examination for the posts of Assistant Director (Official language) has also been conducted. The Council has also taken steps towards filling up the DR vacancies on a yearly basis.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

### **Comments of the Committee**

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

## **CHAPTER-V**

### **Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited**

#### **Budgetary Allocation**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 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.

##### **Reply of the Government**

Department will continue to make concerted efforts towards seeking enhanced budget allocations to address the priority and challenging issues of Indian Agriculture through agricultural research, education and extension.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

## **BUDGETARY ALLOCATION**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

Department has allocated funds for repair and maintenance to ICAR-CIARI for EFC Period 2021-26. In addition, need/demand-based request under this Head is considered in respective Annual Plan periods including justified demands under Corpus Fund Scheme. A onetime catch-up grant for building and related infrastructure for ICAR-CIARI shall be considered during the next EFC (2026-31) period.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

### **Comments of the Committee**

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

## **Agricultural Engineering**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 6)**

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.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Research Centre for Makhana (Darbhanga) is in operation under the ICAR-Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana as per approved scheme “Agriculture Production and Post-Production Mechanisation Augmented with Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Development” for the 2020-21 to 2025-26 period. The proposal for restoration of national status of Makhana Centre along with deployment of manpower has been submitted to Ministry of Finance for concurrence.

The Research Centre for Makhana has played a significant role in enhancing makhana yield, quality and sustainability in production and processing through development of high-yielding makhana variety (Swarna Vaidehi). The field system introducing of makhana cultivation with improved package of practices has led to higher yield and better quality, along with rapid area expansion under makhana cultivation.

Several equipment/machines for Makhana roasting, popping and value-added products have been developed and licensed to manufacturers for commercialization namely Makhana seed washer, Makhana seed grader, Makhana seed primary roasting machine, Makhana seed popping machine, Popped Makhana grader and various types of value-added products.

The Centre has collaborated with Government Institutions, state agencies, educational institutions and private enterprises to support and provide technical know-how in production and processing of makhana and water chestnut. The centre has trained thousands of farmers and entrepreneurs, driving regional industries and livelihoods. The cultivation of Makhana has expanded from approximately 13,000 to 35,000 hectares across multiple states.

Training cum Incubation Centre has been started and a laboratory is being set up for quality assessment of Makhana. Mechanization is promoted for rapidity and better hygiene of the processed products, quality high yielding seeds is distributed for improving yield and quality of the processed makhana products. Regular training on production, processing, value addition and marketing of Makhana are rendered to farmers and entrepreneurs.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

### **Comments of the Committee**

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

### **Crop Sciences**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 7)**

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.

### **Reply of the Government**

“Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security” scheme is aimed to harness conventional and modern scientific knowledge and modern tools for developing location specific improved crop varieties/ hybrids and matching protection and production technologies; refinement of seed production chain; conservation of genetic resources including plants, insects and microorganisms; and providing the

advisory services and capacity building in the domain areas besides promotion of basic, strategic and anticipatory crop science research. The scheme deals with 85 crops by handling huge genetic resources of plants, microbes and insects, with the organizational support of 28 Institutes including one deemed to be university; 20 All-India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) and 06 All-India Network Projects (AINPs) and 09 other projects. Successful efforts made in the past on special trait varieties includes:-

- Development of 152 bio-fortified varieties in field crops (Rice 14; Wheat 53; Maize 24; Pearl millet 12; Finger millet 08; Little millet 02, Proso millet 02, Foxtail millet 01, Brown-top millet 01, Linseed 01, Mustard 10, Soybean 07, Groundnut 3, Lentil 03, Field pea 01, Mung bean 01, Urd bean 01, Chickpea 02, Faba bean 01, Grain Amaranth 05). These biofortified varieties assume great significance to achieve nutritional security of the country. These cultivars have been improved for essential nutrients viz., iron, zinc, calcium, protein, lysine, tryptophan, pro-vitamin-A, anthocyanin, vitamin-C, oleic acid and linoleic acid. The concentration of several anti-nutritional factors viz., erucic acid, glucosinolates and trypsin inhibitor has been significantly reduced in some of the cultivars. The area under bio-fortified varieties has reached to more than 16.0 million ha including wheat (13.0 m ha), rice (0.5 m ha), pearl millet (1.5 m ha), lentil (0.50 m ha) and mustard (1.0 m ha).
- Development of heat tolerant varieties in wheat: To address the challenge of terminal heat tolerance in major wheat growing areas of the country, zone-wise high yielding heat tolerant varieties of wheat have been developed which occupy more than 70% of the wheat area in the country. Wheat varieties developed with heat tolerant traits for different zones includes 29 varieties for North Western Plains Zone (NWPZ), 17 of Bread Wheat and 06 of Durum Wheat (06) for Central Zone (CZ), 16 for North Eastern Plains Zone (NEPZ), 07 of Bread Wheat and 08 of Durum Wheat (08) for Peninsular Zone (PZ)
- 15 varieties with higher input use efficient varieties of rice released and notified during 2024:
- In Shri Anna, the 51 bio-fortified varieties have been developed, viz., 48 of pearl millet, 02 of finger millet and 01 of little millet. The 76 Millet based value added products developed that are ready to eat foods and ready to cook to improve taste and increase consumption of millets viz. biscuits, cake, pasta, vermicelli, halwa mix, multi-grain atta, upma mix etc.

During the last decade (2014-2024), 2900 varieties of 80 different food, oilseeds, fodder, fibre and sugar crops have been released, of which 85% (2661 varieties) are climate resilient. Improved crop production and protection technologies along with increased availability of improved climate resilient varieties and seeds to farmers have not only stabilized food grain production but also increased it steadily during the last three years (2021-22 – 315.62 million tonnes (MT), 2022-23 – 329.69 million tonnes, 2023-24 – 332.30 million tonnes) despite pressures posed by changing climate such as drought, floods, unseasonal rains and high temperatures in different parts of the country. However, in few crops the production has declined in some years due to extreme climatic conditions particularly drought/floods and insect pests and diseases, which will be addressed on priority through the various programmes. Further, the department have more focused efforts in addressing the issues of 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 on priority through the various programmes under the scheme.

[Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education's  
F. No. 7(4)/2025-PIM Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025]

NEW DELHI;

18 August, 2025  
27 Shravana, 1947 (Saka)

**CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI**

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

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

The Committee sat on Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Bhausahab 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) \*xxxxx      xxxxx      xxxxx      xxxxx;
- (vii) \*xxxxx      xxxxx      xxxxx      xxxxx;

(viii) Draft Action-taken Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 8<sup>th</sup> Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) presented during 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.

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.***

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\* Matter not related to this Report

## APPENDIX

### ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE EIGHTH REPORT (18<sup>TH</sup> 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. 2,4,5,8,9,10 and 12	Total 7 Percentage 53.85%
(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. 11 and 13	Total 02 Percentage 15.38%
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited Para Nos. 1,3,6 and 7	Total 04 Percentage 30.77%