

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4236
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH AUGUST, 2025

ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY IN ODISHA

4236. SHRI PRADEEP PUROHIT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to establish a Central or State Agriculture University in Bargarh district of Odisha, which is known as the “Rice Bowl of Odisha” and where over 90% of farmers are dependent on paddy cultivation;
- (b) the total paddy production in Bargarh district during the last five years, and whether the Government considers this region for advanced agricultural research and training infrastructure;
- (c) whether the Government plans to establish new agriculture-focused higher education institutions in under-served rural regions like western Odisha, particularly Bargarh, to support agro-based innovation and rural employment; and
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the agricultural potential of western Odisha, including Bargarh, for setting up a Regional Agri Research and Extension Centre to benefit paddy farmers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a): At present, there is no proposal to establish a Central Agricultural University in Bargarh district of Odisha.

Further, agriculture including agriculture education being the state subject, the concerned State Government can open any new agricultural university as per the need of the region.

(b): Production of paddy in Bargarh district during the last six years is as follows:

Year	Production (Thousand tonnes)
2018-19	599.36
2019-20	582.00
2020-21	1047.46
2021-22	817.70
2022-23	1311.28
2023-24	577.08 (only kharif)

Odisha already has a Central Rice Research Institute in Cuttack, which caters to the advanced agricultural research in the field of paddy and also fulfills the local research and development requirements of the region including Bargarh district. This district is also having one Krishi Vigyan Kendra to meet the extension needs of region.

(c): At present, there is no plan to establish new agriculture-focused higher education institutions by Government of India.

However, in the state of Odisha, there is 1 State Agriculture University i.e. Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar with 11 constituent colleges.

Apart from this, the state also has following 09 ICAR-Institutes & Regional Stations:

- (i) ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar
- (ii) ICAR-Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack
- (iii) ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneswar
- (iv) ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar
- (v) ICAR-National Institute of Foot and Mouth Disease, Bhubaneswar
- (vi) ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute Regional Station, Bhubaneswar
- (vii) ICAR-Directorate of Poultry Research (DPR) Regional Station, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar
- (viii) ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Regional Station, Cuttack
- (ix) Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres (CRIJAF)-Sisal Research Station, Bamra, Sambalpur

The Government has also established 33 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Odisha including one KVK in Bargarh district to promote new technologies of agriculture and allied sectors through technology assessment, demonstration and capacity development among the extension functionaries of state governments and farmers. As part of its activities, the KVK imparts training to the farmers, farm women and rural youth on different aspects of agriculture and allied sectors.

(d): The ICAR-Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack with its three sub-stations at Hazaribag (Jharkhand), Gerua (Assam), and Naira (Andhra Pradesh) develops and disseminates eco-friendly technologies to enhance productivity, profitability and sustainability of rice cultivation in different ecologies of various states in the country including Bargarh, Odisha. Besides, the ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad, Telangana also looks after rice research in the country. In addition to above, Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT), located at Bhubaneswar, conducts research and extension activities on rice for Odisha. At present, there is no proposal to set up a Regional Agri Research and Extension Centre in Bargarh, Odisha.
