33

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING
(2025-26)

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)

"PRODUCTION AND AVAILABILITY OF OILSEEDS AND PULSES IN THE COUNTRY"

THIRTY-THIRD REPORT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
27 MARCH, 2026/ CHAITRA 6, 1948 (SAKA)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on *27.03.2026*

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on *27.03.2026*

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING
18th Lok Sabha (2024-25)

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31. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala

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**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.*

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SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri Dhiraj Kumar	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Maheshwar	-	Director
3.	Shri Sanjeev Kumar	-	Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2025-26), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty-Third Report on the subject "Production and Availability of Oilseeds and Pulses in the Country" pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare).

2. The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing had selected the subject for examination during 2024-25. Briefing on the subject by the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) was held at their Sitting on 07.01.2025, evidence on the subject was held at their sitting on 20.06.2025.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 23.03.2026

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

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the requisite information in connection with the examination of the subject.

5. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

New Delhi;
24 March, 2026
03 Chaitra, 1948 (Saka)

Charanjit Singh Channi
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Agriculture
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing

ABBREVIATIONS

AICRPs	**All India Coordinated Research Projects**
AIF	**Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**
AMI	**Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure**
API	**Application Programming Interface**
CACP	**Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices**
CDB	**Coconut Development Board**
CFLDs	**Cluster Frontline Demonstrations**
CIMMYT	**International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) Mexico**
CNAs	**Central Nodal Agencies**
CoS	**Committee of Secretary**
CPO	**Crude Palm Oil**
CQS	**Certified Quality Seeds**
CRISPR	**Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats**
EFSA	**European Food Safety Authority**
ERs	**Export Revenues**
FAQ	**Fair Average Quality**
FFBs	**Fresh Fruit Bunches**
FFS	**Farmer Field School**
FLD	**Front Line Demonstrations**
FPOs	**Farmer Producer Organizations**
FRP	**Fair and Remunerative Price**
FSSAI	**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India**
GAP	**Good Agricultural Practices**
GE	**Glycidyl Esters (a class of chemical compounds found as process contaminants in refined edible oils, particularly Palm Oil)**
GEAC	**Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee**
GM	**Genetically Modified Seeds**
HYVs	**High Yielding Varieties**
ICAR	**Indian Council of Agricultural Research**
ICMR	**Indian Council of Medical Research**

IE	**Import Expenditure**
IIMs	**Indian Institute of Management**
I&PS	**Invest & Price Support Division**
ITPGRFA	**International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**
KVK	**Krishi Vigyan Kendra**
MAS	**Market-Assisted Selection**
MIDH	**Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture**
MMT	**Million Metric Tonnes**
MSP	**Minimum Support Price**
NAFED	**National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.**
e-NAM	**Electronic National Agriculture Market**
NCCF	**National Co-operative Consumers Federation of India Ltd.**
NES	**North-Eastern States**
NFSM	**National Food Security Mission**
NFSNM	**National Food Security & Nutrition Mission**
NIN	**National Institute of Nutrition**
NMEO-OP	**National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm**
NMEO-OS	**National Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds**
NMSA	**National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture**
PDMC	**Per Drop More Crop**
PKVY	**Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana**
PM-AASHA	**Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan**
PM-RKVY	**Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana**
PPPs	**Public Private Partnerships**
PSS	**Price Support Scheme**
SATHI Portal	**Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory Portal**
SAUs	**State Agricultural Universities**
SOP	**Standard Operating Procedure**
SRR	**Seed Replacement Rate**
SSCs	**States Seeds Corporations**
TRFA	**Targeting Rice Fallow Areas**
TRIPS	**Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights**

TSAs	**Technical Support Agencies**
VCPs	**Value Chain Partners**
VGP	**Viability Gap Payment**
VP	**Viability Price**
WHO	**World Health Organization**
WTO	**World Trade Organization**

Report

Part – I

Production and Availability of Oilseeds and Pulses in India

Overview

Oilseeds and Pulses are critical components of India's agricultural economy, contributing significantly to food security, nutrition, and economic stability. Oilseeds, grown for their high oil content, provide edible oils essential for cooking and non-edible oils used in industrial applications. Pulses, rich in protein, are a staple in Indian diets, particularly for vegetarian population, and play a vital role in addressing nutritional deficiencies. India is the world's fourth-largest producer of Oilseeds and the largest producer and consumer of Pulses, yet it faces challenges such as import dependence, low productivity, and regional disparities in production.

1.2 The Government of India has implemented various schemes, including the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-OS) and the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), to boost production, enhance productivity, and reduce import reliance. Despite significant progress over the past decade, challenges like rainfed cultivation, yield gaps, and biotic/abiotic stresses persist. This Report provides a comprehensive analysis of the Production, Availability, and Challenges associated with Oilseeds and Pulses, along with policy initiatives, consumption trends, and Observations/Recommendations for achieving self-sufficiency.

Importance of Oilseeds and Pulses in India

1.3 Oilseeds and Pulses are indispensable to India's agricultural and nutritional landscape. Oilseeds, including crops like Soybean, Groundnut, Rapeseed-Mustard, and Oil Palm, are primary sources of edible oils, which are essential for cooking and food preparation. Secondary sources like Cottonseed and Rice bran also contribute significantly to domestic oil availability. India's per capita consumption of edible oils has risen sharply from 9.85 kg during 1996-2006 to 20.3 kg in 2022-23, driven by population growth, urbanization, and changing dietary patterns.

1.4 Pulses, such as Chickpea (Gram), Pigeon pea (Tur), Lentil (Masur), and Mungbean (moong), are a major source of Plant-based protein, critical for India's predominantly vegetarian population. Recognized globally as a "Smart Food" during the International Year of Pulses (2016), pulses are highly water-efficient, improve soil fertility through nitrogen fixation, and can be cultivated in rainfed and drought-prone areas. India consumes approximately 28 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of Pulses annually, with Gram contributing 46% to total pulse production.

1.5 Both crops support environmental sustainability. Pulses reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, while oilseeds like groundnut and soybean enhance soil health. Economically, these crops provide income to millions of small and marginal farmers, with over 85% of oilseed and pulse growers falling into this category. However, import dependence—56% for edible oils and 2-3 MMT for Pulses—underscores the need for enhanced domestic production to ensure food security and reduce foreign exchange expenditure.

Production Trends- Oilseeds

1.6 Data on area under cultivation, production, consumption, Imports & Exports of Edible Oilseeds:-

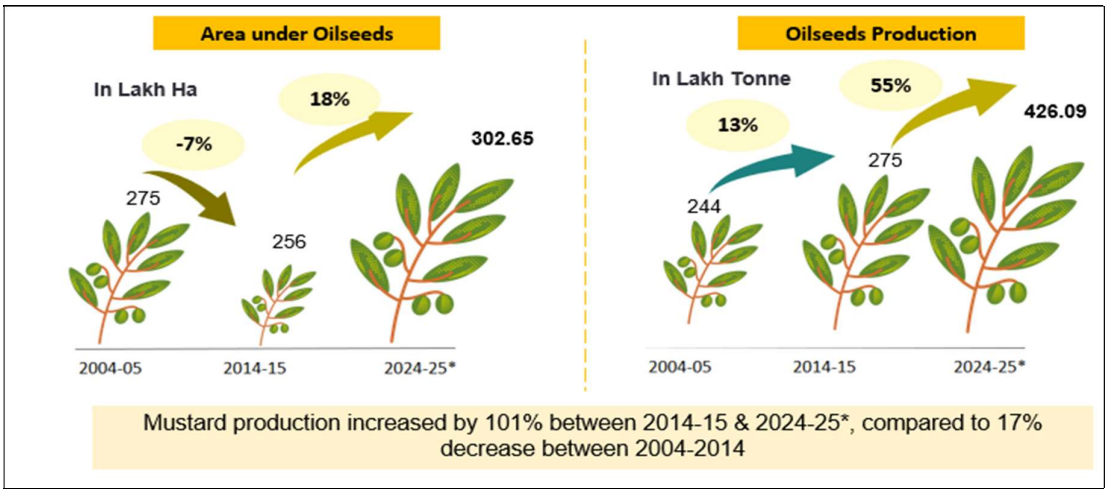
[Area in lakh hectare/LHA, Qty in Lakh Metric Tonnes/LMT]

Year (Nov.-Oct.)	Area Under Cultivation of Oil Seeds (Lha)	Production of Oilseeds (LMT)	Domestic Availability of Edible Oils	Imports of Edible Oils*	Total Availability/ Consumption	% Self sufficiency	% Share of imports
2013-14	280.5	327	101.9	109.8	211.7	48.1	51.9
2014-15	255.9	275	92.0	138.5	230.5	40.0	60
2015-16	260.8	253	86.30	148.50	234.80	36.8	63.2
2016-17	261.7	313	100.99	153.17	254.16	39.7	60.3
2017-18	245.0	315	103.80	145.92	249.72	41.6	58.4
2018-19	247.9	315	103.52	155.70	259.22	40	60
2019-20	263.1	332	106.55	134.16	240.71	44.3	55.7
2020-21	288.2	359	111.51	134.52	246.03	45.3	54.7
2021-22	291.6	379.63	116.5	141.93	258.44	45.1	54.9
2022-23	302.3**	413.55**	124.23**	165.00	289.23	42.95	57.04
2023-24	301.9**	396.69**	121.75**	156.55	278.3	43.74	56.25

* Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (Ministry of Commerce)
** Based on the Final Advance Estimates declared by DA&FW released on 25.09.2024

Source: Directorate of Vegetable Oils under Department of Food and Public Distribution.

1.7 During the course of examination, the Department has submitted:-



*As per 3rd advance estimate, DA&FW

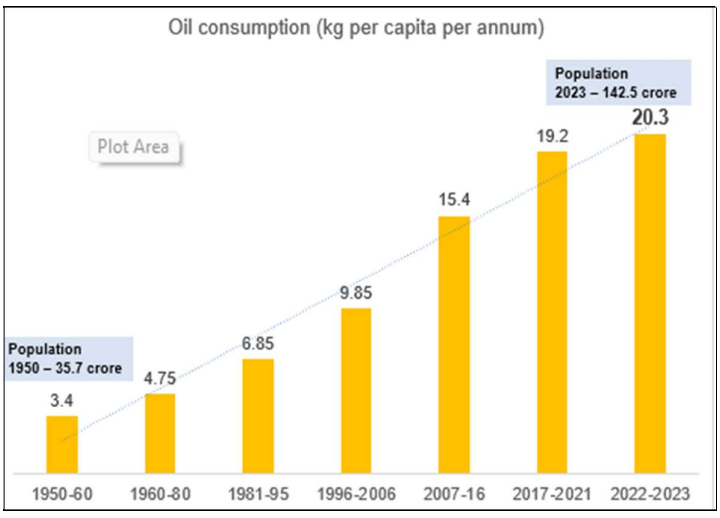
1.8 Data on Imports (I), Import Expenditure (IE), Exports I and Export Revenues (ERs) in r/o edible oils from 2014-15 to 2024-25 (year wise) may be seen at **Annexure-I**

Availability and Consumption

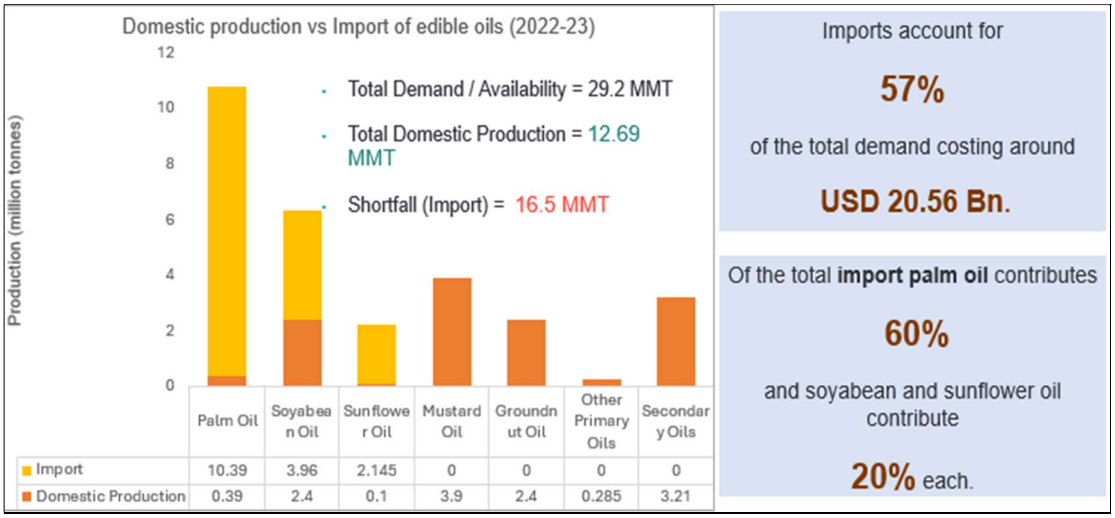
1.9 During the course of examination, the Department has submitted:-

Oilseeds

Consumption Side: Rising consumption outpacing production



Rising imports putting burden on foreign exchange



Domestic consumption outpaced domestic availability

1.10 On being asked by the Committee that domestic consumption of Oilseeds have always outpaced their domestic availability during every year of the last decade (2013-14 to 2022-23) and whether this mean that the Government efforts in reducing important dependency have not had desired impact on increase in domestic production of Oilseeds, the Department has submitted:-

> "Since 2014-15, the Oilseed sector in India has made significant strides, with area under cultivation increasing by 17.5%, production by 44%, and yield by 22%. This progress has reduced reliance on imported edible oils from 63% in 2014-15 to 57% in 2022-23. However, the significant rise in per capita consumption of edible oils, which has more than doubled from 8.2 kg in 2000-01 to 19.7 kg in 2020-21, along with population growth, changing consumption patterns, and increasing urbanization, has far outpaced domestic production. This surge in demand has led to reliance on imports to meet the growing consumption.

Sources of imports of Edible Oils

1.11 On being asked by the Committee regarding the sources of imports of edible oils, the Department has submitted:-

"Summary of Major Edible Oil Import Sources are as under:

Edible Oil	Major Sources of Import
Palm Oil	Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand
Soybean Oil	Argentina, Brazil, United States, Paraguay
Sunflower Oil	Ukraine, Russia, Argentina, European Union Countries
Canola Oil	Canada, Australia
Mustard Oil	Nepal, Pakistan (small quantities)
Cottonseed Oil	Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
Groundnut Oil	China, Argentina (small quantities)

Cost economics pertaining to importing edible Oils

1.12 On being asked by the Committee as to whether importing edible oils is a cheaper option to improving domestic edible oil production and to furnish the cost economics/calculations involved in growing domestically/ importing edible oils, the Department has submitted:-

> "While importing edible oils may appear cheaper on a short-term basis due to the lower global price of oils and the ease of access through imports, improving domestic production offers significant long-term benefits. It also reduced dependence on imports which may be impacted by geo-political events & even fluctuations in international prices. The cost economics of domestic production, if combined with advancements in farming technology, better yields and improved processing efficiencies, could lead to a sustainable solution to meet India's growing edible oil demand while also strengthening the agricultural sector and ensuring food security."

Consumption pattern of various edible oils

1.13 As per the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (Dept of Food & Public Distribution) about 57% of domestic demand of edible oils is met through imports out of which Palm oil constitutes about 59%. On being asked by the Committee to furnish the data on other edible oils' share in imports for the last five years, the Department has submitted:-

> **"**Details of major oils imported during last five years are as under:

Year (Nov-Oct)	Crude Palm Oil	RBD Palmolein	Palm Oil Total	Crude Soybean	Crude Sunflower	Crude Rapeseed	Crude Palm Kernel	Others	Total
2019-20	68.15	4.3	72.45	33.68	25.26	0.17	0.68	1.35	133.49
2020-21	74.66	8.48	83.14	28.91	19.09	0.52	0	2.86	134.52
2021-22	59.43	21.08	80.51	41.18	19.92	0	0	0.32	141.93
2022-23	75.00	22.95	97.95	37.93	28.87	0.0	0.0	0.26	165.00
2023-24	**70.16**	**18.98**	**89.15**	**31.41**	**34.91**	**0.031**	**1.02**	**0.13**	**156.55**
2023-24 (% share)	**44.81**	**12.12**	**56.94**	**20.06**	**22.29**	**0.02**	**0.65**	**0.083**	**100**

Source: DGCIS/SEAI"

Steps taken to increase production of Oilseeds in non-traditional areas

1.14 The Committee desired to know the steps/measures being taken to increase the production of Oilseeds in non-traditional areas. The Department has submitted:

> "Expanding Oilseed crop cultivation into non-traditional areas and seasons can increase overall production and contribute to self-sufficiency. This involves introducing crops like Sunflower, Groundnut, and Rapeseed-Mustard in new regions and during different cropping seasons. For example, spring Sunflower cultivation can be promoted in the Indo-Gangetic Plains, and *Rabi* sunflower in West Bengal and Odisha. Similarly, spring Groundnut can be introduced in Uttar Pradesh.
>
> Strategies for expanding Oilseed cultivation:
>
> - Area expansion: Focus on bringing new areas under Oilseed cultivation, including fallow lands and areas where other crops are less productive.
>
> - Diversification: Introduce Oilseed crops into existing cropping systems, potentially replacing low-yielding crops.
>
> - Season extension: Promote cultivation of Oilseeds in non-traditional seasons like spring and *Rabi*.

- Technology adoption: Utilize improved crop varieties, irrigation management techniques, and pest control methods to enhance productivity.

- Infrastructure development: Invest in irrigation facilities, storage, and marketing infrastructure to support increased production.

- Farmer empowerment: Encourage farmer producer organizations (FPOs) and promote digital marketing to improve market access and price realization.

- Policy support: Implement policies like minimum support price (MSP) and procurement mechanisms to incentivize farmers to grow oilseeds.

- Research and development: Focus on developing new technologies and varieties suitable for non-traditional areas and seasons.

Benefits of expanding Oilseed cultivation:

- Increased production: Expanding into new areas and seasons can significantly boost overall oilseed production."

Strengthening of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to achieve self-reliance in edible oil production

1.15 On being asked by the Committee as to how the Government is strengthening FPO's (Farmer Producer Organizations) and increasing their role in order to achieve self-reliance in edible Oil production, the Department has submitted:

"Govt has launched Central Sector Scheme the 10,000 FPO Scheme for Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in 2020 to empower small and marginal farmers by organizing them into collective groups for better input access, improved market

linkages, and stronger bargaining power. As on 30.04.2025, 1341 FPOs has been formed for oilseeds under 10K FPO scheme.

Moreover, The Government approved the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-OS) on 3rd October 2024 to boost domestic oilseed production and move towards self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in edible oils.

Under NMEO-Oilseeds, a cluster-based approach has been adopted to enhance oilseed production, with over 600 value chain clusters identified, covering approximately 10 lakh hectares annually. Each cluster is managed by a Value Chain Partner (VCP), which may be a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), multistate/state cooperative, public/private corporation, or an active APMC in the oilseed sector, with preference given to FPOs.

The VCPs are responsible for mobilizing farmers, distributing quality seeds, and coordinating with Technical Support Agencies (TSAs) to organize training programs, conduct Farmer Field Schools (FFS) for unregistered farmers, and disseminate advisory services through various platforms. VCPs are also tasked with establishing forward linkages for the sale of produce, either through their own processing units or by coordinating with other agencies. To support post-harvest operations, assistance is provided for machinery and equipment for oil extraction units (10-tonne capacity) and processing of oilseeds at 33% of the project cost, subject to a maximum of ₹9.90 lakh per unit. Additionally, VCPs are encouraged to take advantage of other schemes such as Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), and similar programs to develop storage and processing facilities."

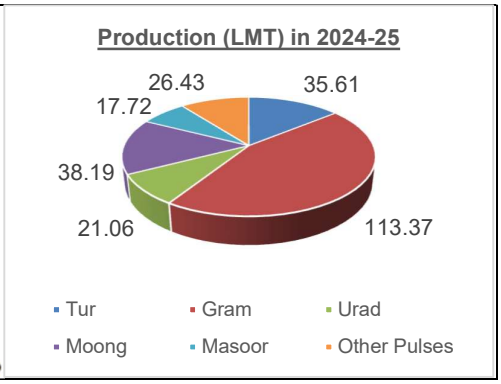
Production Trends - Pulses

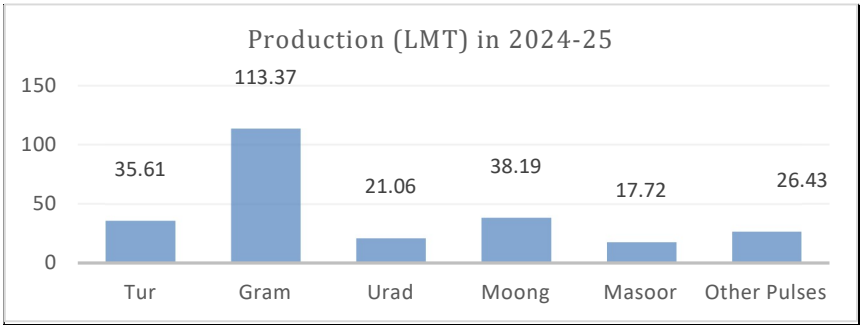
1.16 During the course of examination, the Department has submitted:-

Global Position

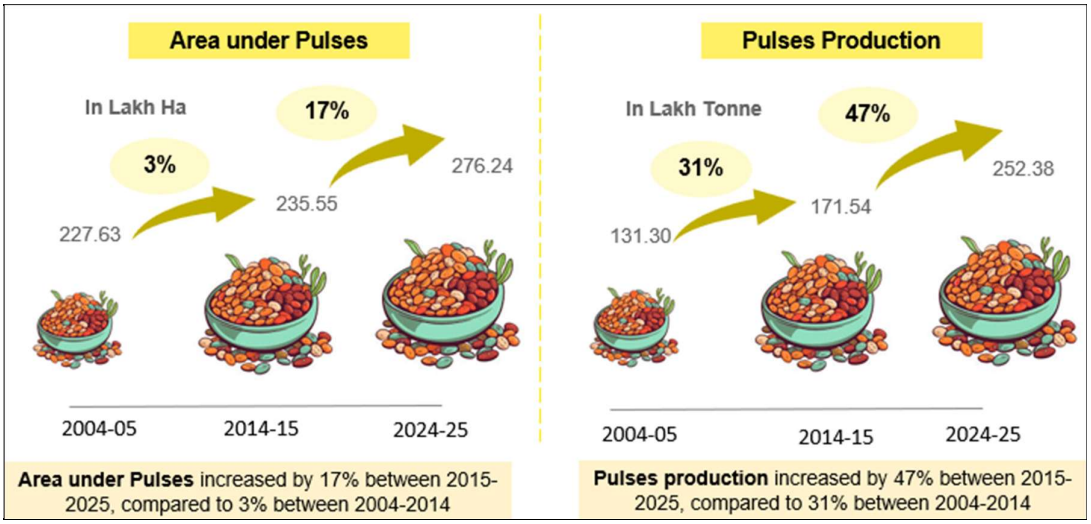
- ✓ **India is the Largest Producer** of pulses globally.
- ✓ **1st in area and production** followed by Canada, China, Russia and Nigeria
- ✓ In 2024-25, India produced 252.38 LMT of total pulses.

Source: (Directorate of Pulse Development)





Surge in Pulses Area & Production in India



Source: DA&FW

As per 3rd advance estimate, DA&FW

Measures taken to reduce imports of Pulses and achieve self sufficiency

1.17 On being asked by the Committee as to what measures have been taken to reduce imports and achieve self-sufficiency in Pulses, the Department has submitted:

> "The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing National Food Security & Nutrition Mission-Pulses (NFSNM-Pulses) programme across the country with the objective to increase food grains production including pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement. The strategies such as focus on low productivity districts, cultivation of pulses in rice fallow areas, inter-cropping of other food grains etc. are included to lessen the regional differences in pulses production. In addition, under NFSNM, Cluster Frontline Demonstrations (CFLDs) of pulses is being conducted through KVKs of ICAR and minikits of pulses is distributed free of cost to farmers for dissemination of new varieties of pulses and quality seed production of pulses through 150 seed hubs of ICAR.

- The Government of India and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) initiated various measures to boost the pulses production in the country, such as increasing the area under cultivation, enhancing the yield through improved varieties and technologies, providing incentives and subsidies to farmers, procuring pulses at remunerative prices, and promoting intercropping and mixed cropping systems.

- The Government has laid greater emphasis on research on development of climate resilient pulses varieties. In past few years drought tolerant Chickpea varieties *i.e.,* BGM 10216 (2020), Pusa Chickpea 4005 (2021), IPC L4-14 (2021), Pusa JG 16 (2022), NC 7 (2023), NC 9 (2024) have been released in India.

- Various Frontline Demonstrations (FLD) and Cluster Frontline Demonstrations (CFLD) on Pulses have indicated a huge yield gap between the farmers' practices and improved package of practices. The gap was observed to be as high as 30-38% in Pigeon pea, Mungbean and Blackgram. To realize actual yield potential of recent varieties in pulses, impetus has been on adoption of improved technologies,

including recent varieties, high-quality seed material, optimal agronomic practices, modern farm machinery and equipment. An increase focus is there on developing high yielding, climate resilient and more nutritious varieties of pulses. Genome editing is being deployed in Pigeon pea and Blackgram by ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur to address the challenges of biotic and abiotic stresses and improve seed quality traits.

- Area under pulses cultivation has a great scope of improvement in irrigated and rainfed regions through cropping system manipulation, crop intensification and bringing pulses in new niches. The scope for expansion of pulses include rice-wheat system, rice fallows of eastern India, coastal regions for Utera (paira) cropping of lentil, Urad bean and Mungbean, inter-row space of crops like Sugarcane, Pearl millets, and Sorghum. Further yield enhancement is aimed through strategies such as development of input responsive varieties, varieties with multiple resistances to diseases and insect-pests, short duration varieties to fit well in different cropping systems and increasing the harvest index. Development of hybrids in Pigeon pea will lead to additional options of vertical expansion of Pulses in the country."

Steps taken to increase production of Pulses in non-traditional areas

1.18 The Committee desired to know the steps/measures being taken to increase the production of Pulses in non-traditional areas. The Department has submitted:-

"In order to increase the area under Pulses, rice fallow areas in North eastern states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam have been targeted. Chick pea varieties like GNG 2461, Purva (GNG 2299), Pusa Chick pea 3043 have been released for North Eastern plains for rice-based cropping system. To increase of production of Pulses from the non-traditional areas, the following initiatives have been taken by AICRP on *Kharif* Pulses:

Crop fallows and spring summer season: Reducing the crop duration, especially of Mungbean and Blackgram by 10-15 days will promote their cultivation in non-traditional areas. Mungbean varieties of 55-60 days and Blackgram varieties of 65-70 days can be grown as catch crops in spring/summer season in many states such as Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Gujarat after the harvest of *rabi* crops such as wheat, potato, rapeseed-mustard, chickpea, pea, etc. Likewise short duration varieties can also fit well in rice fallow areas. Overall short duration varieties have a potential to increase 1.5 Million hectares (Mha) under pulses and the AICRP is focusing on developing such varieties.

Intercropping: Inter-cropping of Mungbean and Uradbean with sugarcane, cotton, Pigeon pea, cucurbits can bring additional area under Pulses. AICRP on *kharif* pulses is working towards development of efficient and more remunerative cropping systems incorporating *kharif* pulses as the intercrops.

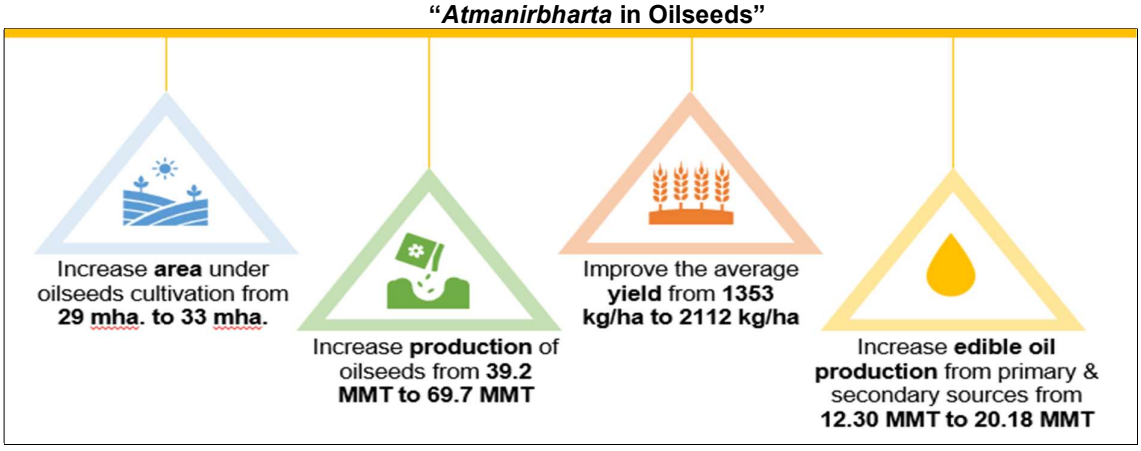
Vegetable type Pigeon pea and Pigeon pea on bunds: Promoting vegetable type Pigeon pea (green seeds, large seeded) and growing Pigeon pea on bunds and kitchen gardens will further boost up area under *kharif* pulses in India. This is being promoted among the farmers."

Policy Initiatives by the Government

(a) Oilseeds

1.19 During the course of examination, the Department has submitted:-

"*Atmanirbharta* in Oilseeds"



Impact of National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)

1.20 On being asked by the Committee to furnish a detailed note on NMEO-OP along with supporting data on achieving the objectives of the Mission and its impact on edible oil production, the Department has submitted:

> "The Government of India launched the NMEO-OP to achieve self-reliance in edible oils by promoting Oil Palm cultivation, with a focus on the North-Eastern States (NES). The mission aims to bring 6.5 lakh hectares under Oil Palm cultivation (3.28 lakh ha in NES and 3.22 lakh ha in general states) from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The financial sharing ratio is 60:40 for general states, 90:10 for NES, and 100% for Union Territories and Central Agencies.
>
> Palm oil is the highest oil-yielding crop, producing 4-5 metric tonnes of oil per hectare. With proper management, it offers a significant economic return, and the crop's lifespan is 30 years. India has identified 28 lakh hectares as potential oil palm cultivation areas, with Andhra Pradesh accounting for 4.76 lakh hectares.
>
> **Key Interventions:**
>
> ➢ Area Expansion: Support for planting material, intercropping, nursery establishment, and replanting of old gardens.
>
> ➢ Production Inputs: Assistance for irrigation, machinery, bio-fencing, land clearing, and integrated farming systems, with additional support for NES.
>
> ➢ Market Support: A Viability Gap Payment (VGP) ensures assured pricing for Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs).
>
> ➢ Technology Transfer: Training programs, R&D projects, and custom hiring centers to improve farmer capacity.
>
> **Achievements:**
>
> ➢ Implementation: NMEO-OP operates in 15 states, including Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana Assam, Arunachal Pradesh,

Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland. Proposals have been sought from five additional states such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

- The Viability Price (VP) for Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) under the Mission has been declared as ₹10,516 per ton for 2021–22, ₹13,346 per ton for 2022–23, ₹13,652 per ton for 2023–24, and ₹14,489 per ton for 2024–25.

- Cultivation: Since its launch, 1.7 lakh hectares have been added, increasing the total oil palm area to 5.36 lakh hectares by December 2024.

- Processing Mills: There are 24 operational mills, with Andhra Pradesh hosting 12 and others spread across key states.

- Seed Nurseries: A total of 85 nurseries (48 in general states and 37 in NES) with a combined capacity of 85 lakh planting materials have been established.

- Seed Gardens: Of the 12 existing gardens, 5 are productive, and 10 new gardens are proposed under NMEO-OP.

- Viability Gap Payment (VGP): Amount of ₹ 304.00 lakh disbursed to the farmers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

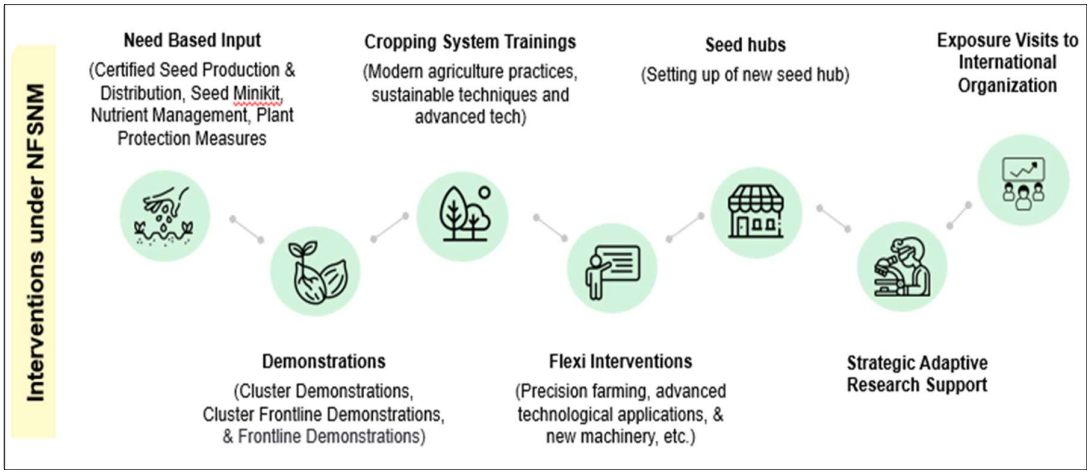
- Mega Plantation Drive: Conducted from July to September 2024, this drive engaged 22,500 farmers across 12 states, covering 21,000 hectares and planting over 30 lakh saplings.

Production: From 2021-22 to 2023-24, 65.23 lakh tons of FFBs were harvested, yielding 11.33 lakh tons of Crude Palm Oil (CPO). Additional 33 lakh tonnes FFB will be produced from these plantations as they mature."

(b) Pulses

1.21 During the course of examination, the Department has submitted:-

National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) launched in 2007, with **63% of budget (2014–24), i.e. ₹8,207.5 Cr allocated to 'Pulses' component of Mission,** though no separate mission existed.



Steps taken to lessen regional differences in production of Pulses

1.22 The Committee desired to know the measures taken by the Department/Ministry to lessen regional differences in production of Pulses across the country. The Department has submitted:

> "DA&FW is implementing NFSNM-Pulses programme across the country with the objective to increase foodgrain production including pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement. The strategies such as focus on low productivity districts, cultivation of pulses in rice fallow areas, inter-cropping of other foodgrains etc are included to lessen the regional differences in pulses production. In addition, under NFSNM, Cluster Frontline Demonstrations (CFLDs) of pulses is being conducted through KVKs of ICAR and minikits of pulses is distributed free of cost to farmers for dissemination of new varieties of pulses and quality seed production of pulses through 150 seed hubs of ICAR.
>
> Wide variations in yield of pulses also remain across states due to differences in agroclimatic conditions, resource endowments, technology adoption, and socioeconomic constraints. Factors like climate variability, pest and disease outbreaks, and inadequate management practices contribute to yield volatility. However, the implementation of improved agricultural practices, such as the adoption of high-yielding varieties, efficient irrigation systems, and integrated pest management, has led to a decline in volatility among

certain regions. To further enhance the stability of pulse production, it is crucial to continue investing in research and development, promote the adoption of advanced technologies, and strengthen extension services."

Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) and its role in farmers prosperity

1.23 The Committee desired to know regarding the composition of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) and its role in farmers prosperity. The Department has submitted:

"a. The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is an attached office of Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, which advises on the price policy of agricultural commodities (presently cover 23 mandated crops) with a view to evolving a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of the producer (farmers) and the consumer. The Commission, *inter alia*, considers the cost of production and various other factors such as demand and supply situation in domestic and global market, price trends in domestic and world markets, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sector, the likely effect of the price policy on rest of the economy, rational utilization of land, water and other production resources, and a minimum of 50 percent as the margin in case of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and reasonable margin in case of Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) over cost of production, while recommending MSP/FRP.

b. The present composition of the CACP is as follows:
   i. The Chairman
   ii. One Member (Official)
   iii. Two Member (Non-Official)
   iv. Member Secretary"

1.24 Data pertaining to cost of cultivation as per CACP and MSP declared for Oilseeds from 2013-14 to 2024-25 may be seen at **Annexure -II.**

Minimum Support Price (MSP)

1.25 On being asked by the Committee to provide details of the steps being taken to ensure 100% procurement of Oilseeds and Pulses at MSP, the Department, in its reply, has submitted:-

> **"**The MPS Section under Invest and Price Support (I&PS) Division implements Price Support Scheme (PSS) under the integrated scheme of PM-AASHA for the procurement of the notified pulses, oilseeds and copra at the MSP by the Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs) i.e National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF), directly from the pre-registered farmers through the State level agencies, within the stipulated period subject to conforming their produce to the prescribed Fair Average Quality (FAQ), as and when the market prices of these commodities fall below the notified MSP during peak harvesting period to provide the remunerative price to the farmers. It is implemented on the request of State Govt./ UT Govt. that agrees to exempt the procured commodities of pulses, oilseeds and copra from levy of Mandi tax and assist central nodal agencies, in logistic arrangements, including gunny bags, working capital for state agencies, creation of revolving fund for PSS operations, etc. as required under the guidelines of the scheme.
>
> In this regard, it is stated that under PSS a component of PM-AASHA. The overall quantity of procurement by Central Government will be restricted to 25% of All India Production of the particular commodity for the particular year / season. Initially the sanction for procurement under PSS will be allowed at 25% of the state production. The additional quantity under the window of 25% of All India Production of the commodity will be allowed after the procurement of 25% of state production of the commodity by Central Nodal Agencies is exhausted in a given state and with the approval of Committee of Secretary (CoS). However, in order to

enhance the domestic production of Tur, Urad and Masur the procurement, ceiling under PSS had been lifted for the year 2023-24 which was extended for 2024-25 season. During budget speech 2025-26 announcement has been made for 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses with a special focus on Tur, Urad and Masur- Central Agencies (NAFED & NCCF) to procure these three pulses as much as offered during the next four years from the registered farmers. Accordingly, sanctions for 100% of procurement of Tur, Urad and Masur under PSS have been accorded since 2023-24.

Details of Procurement of Pulses and Oilseeds during 2023-24 & 2024-25 are as under:

Year		Quantity Procured (in MT)	MSP Value (Rs. In Lakh)	Number of farmers benefitted
2023-24	**Oilseeds**	1,441,356.22	895,379.35	656,669
2024-25*		4,383,250.67	2,603,034.81	1,717,596
2023-24	**Pulses**	693,769.32	527,515.29	300,667
2024-25*		1,385,880.44	987,515.29	775,681

***as on 30.06.2025"**

Creation of Seed Hubs

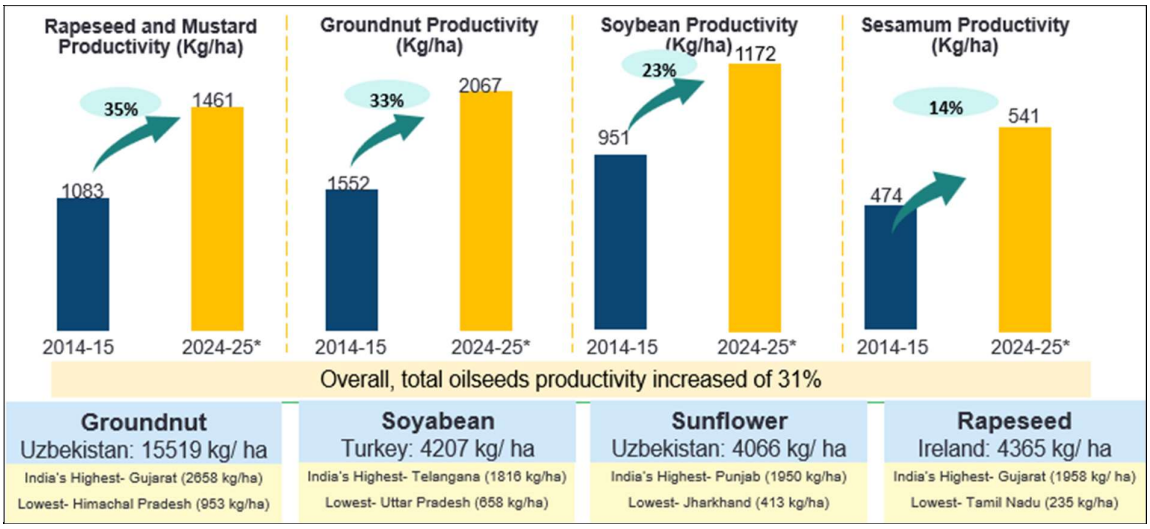
1.26 On being asked by the Committee as to how many Seed Production Centres (Seed Hubs) have been created in the field of Oilseeds and Pulses to provide high quality seeds to the farmers, the Department has submitted :

"In case of Oilseeds 74 Seed Hub Centres have been created in 17 States across the country for the production of quality seeds. The list of Seed Hubs of Oilseeds is at **Annexure-III**.

In case of Pulses 150 Seed Hub Centres have been created in 24 States across the country for the production of quality seeds. The list of Seed Hubs of Pulses is at **Annexure-IV**."

Yield Gaps in Oilseeds

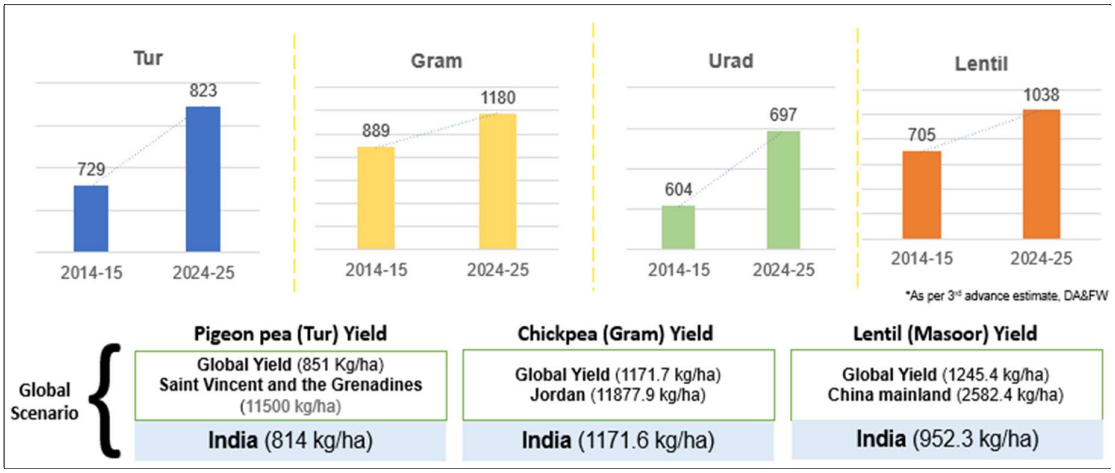
1.27 During the course of examination, the Department has submitted:-



*As per 3rd advance estimate, DA&FW

Yield Gaps in Pulses

1.28 During the course of examination, the Department has submitted:-



Source: DA&FW, FAO (Stat)

Seed Authentication, Traceability and Holistic Inventory (SATHI) portal

1.29 On being asked by the Committee to provide a detailed note on the functioning & achievements of SATHI portal and to state the improvements made by the Department in the SATHI portal over the last few years to improve its efficacy, the Department has submitted:

“Seed Authentication, Traceability and Holistic Inventory (SATHI) is a user-oriented centralized portal, envisioned and created by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Govt. of India, in partnership with National Informatics Centre (NIC). SATHI provides a holistic approach to encompass the complete seed life cycle over multiple seed generations. This measure is achieved through automation of the entire seed supply chain, starting from seed production to certification, licensing, seed Inventory, and seed sale by certified dealers to seed growers and includes traceability of seeds.

SATHI portal will ensure quality assurance system and to track the spurious seed in Seed Production Chain. This system will include integrated six verticals of seed chain viz. Research organization, Seed certification, Seed licensing, Seed inventory, Dealer to farmer sale, Integration with Farmer Database. Seed with valid certification only can be sold by valid licensed dealers to the centrally registered farmers who can get subsidy directly in their pre-validated Bank Accounts through DBT.

Benefits of the Seed Traceability are identification of a seed source, variety and quality, Automation of manual processes of indent submission, allocation, allotment, lifting etc. for breeder seeds, Real time monitoring of demand, allocation and supply of breeder seeds, Automation of seed certification system involving registration, inspection, testing, certificate issuance, Monitoring of seed inventory and sale to farmers, Automated registration of seed dealers, application renewal and license issuance, etc.

Farmers and other stakeholders will be able to scan QR Code printed over the packet / bags of seed with their mobile phones and get information regarding Crop, Variety, Source details of Nucleus – Breeder – Foundation Seed, Grower’s details, Month-year-code, Production location code, Seed Testing Laboratory Detail, Processing Plant Code, Seed Produce Code, any other mandatory information as per, Environmental Protection Act, 1986 in case of GM/Bt. Cotton etc.

SATHI is being developed and implemented in two phases. Phase-I covers Nucleus seed to Certified/ TL seed while Phase-2 covers Public/ Private storage/godown to Dealer to farmer sale. Development of both phases of the project is complete. Under SATHI Phase-1, a comprehensive digital ecosystem has been successfully established to streamline end-to-end operations in the seed sector. As of now, over 15,408 seed producing agencies, 5.88 lakh seed growers, 290 seed testing laboratories, and 6,009 seed processing plants have been on-boarded on the platform. These stakeholders are actively using the system for their daily operations, enabling a smooth and integrated workflow.

Currently, 25 states across India are performing their entire seed production and certification processes through the SATHI platform in a completely paperless manner. As part of its traceability initiative, QR-coded seed tags—which allow for real-time tracking and authentication—are being printed directly from the SATHI portal in key States/ UTs such as Punjab, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Assam, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu & Kashmir. The remaining States are in the final stages of readiness and are expected to roll out QR-coded tags very soon.

Action has been initiated to provide a centralized national dashboard for various national-level seed-producing entities such as National Seeds Corporation (NSC), Kendriya Beej Sansadhan Sansthan (KVSS), and seed producers under the Seed Hub Programme. This initiative aims to enable real-time monitoring, enhanced transparency, and data-driven decision-making across the seed production ecosystem at the national level.

Over the past few years, Govt. of India has successfully brought together multiple stakeholders across the seed value chain onto a single, unified digital platform. Building on this robust foundation, the current focus is on integrating key interstate operations—including seed export-import, interstate seed production, revalidation processes, tag verification, and source approvals for Stage-2 permissions. These efforts are gradually shaping the vision of a

National Seed Grid, enabling seamless collaboration and oversight across State boundaries.

Simultaneously, Govt. of India is working to onboard Truthfully Labelled (TL) seed producers and initiating the rollout of Phase-2 of the SATHI platform. This phase aims to expand digital coverage right up to the farmer's point of delivery, ensuring end-to-end traceability, enhanced transparency, and more efficient service delivery across the entire seed supply chain."

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

1.30 On being asked to enlist the educational initiatives that are being implemented to promote good agricultural practices among farmers and as to how many farmers growing Oilseeds & Pulses have been trained by KVKs & other govt. agricultural institutions during the last decade or so in sustainable agricultural practices, the Department has submitted**:**

"As per the information received from ICAR, over the past decade, KVKs, ICAR institutes, several AICRPs and state agricultural universities have trained thousands of oilseed and pulse farmers and extension staff in sustainable Good Agricultural Practices. Initiatives include on-farm trials, frontline demonstrations via national and cluster FLDs, field days, Kisan Melas, exposure visits, hands-on demos, farmer training programs, and radio/TV/mobile advisories, boosting adoption of resilient cultivation in rainfed, low-input regions using traditional and digital extension methods.

The following activities were undertaken by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) to contribute into the Good Agricultural Practices as:

(i) Training programme organized in last 10 years by KVKs on NRM to promote good agricultural practices in different states/UTs of India

Different aspects covered in promoting good agricultural Practices	Nos in last 10 years
Trainings on climate resilient agriculture	23217
Trainings on CRM	6831
Agro-advisory on Soil health	94540
Agro-advisory on water management/conservation	54859
Total	179447

(ii) Training programmes organized during last 10 years by KVKs on pulses and oilseeds to benefit farmers: The following activities indicate that how farmers were trained in last 10 years about sustainable cultivation practices relating to Oilseeds and Pulses

A. Crop pulses	Nos in last 10 years
No of training programmes	21986
No of farmers trained	697352
B. Crop oilseeds	Nos in last 10 years
No of training programmes	21443
No of farmers trained	646876

Advancements in biotechnology

1.31 On being asked by the Committee as to how advancements within biotechnology will reshape future landscapes surrounding both edible oils & legume cultivation, the Department has submitted:

"Advancements in biotechnology—molecular breeding, marker-assisted selection, genome editing (e.g., Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats CRISPR), and speed breeding—are poised to revolutionize edible oil and legume cultivation. In pulses like chickpea and Pigeon pea. Marker assisted breeding helped in development of wilt and drought resistant varieties. In mustard, for improving the quality of mustard oil and oil meal, the genome edited products are under trial. Groundnut research leverages genomic selection and CRISPR to enhance

aflatoxin resistance, oil quality (high oleic), and resource-use efficiency. Rapeseed-mustard may derive benefits from genome editing for Orobanche tolerance and MAS for oil quality and disease resistance. Emerging oilseeds such as Sesame and Niger gain from genomic mapping, bio-input development, and seed traceability. High-through put geno typing and "omics" platforms enable precise trait stacking, shortening breeding cycles and delivering sustainable, high-yielding cultivars to meet evolving global food and nutrition demands."

Issues related to Seeds

1.32 During the Oral evidence, the Committee desired to know about Varietal Development of seeds and its related aspects:

"चने में जहां पर नहरी पानी या ट्यूबवेल का पानी लगने लग गया है, वहां पर चने का उत्पादन होना बंद हो गया है। क्या आप कोई ऐसा बीज पैदा कर सकते हैं कि वहां पर चना हो जाए। बारिश के दिनों में खासकर मूंग, मोठ और उड़द दो-तीन फसलें ऐसी हैं, जिन पर थोड़ी से बारिश होते ही इसका बीज काला पड़ जाता है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट, भारत सरकार या व्यापारी उसको नहीं खरीदता है। इसकी वजह से उसका उत्पादन बहुत घट गया है और लोगों ने उसे बोना छोड़ दिया है। मैं खासकर हरियाणा और पंजाब की बात कर रहा हूं। राजस्थान में इसकी अब भी बिजाई करते हैं। इसको काटने के बाद जब इस पर बारिश हो जाती है तो यह बिल्कुल खराब हो जाता है। कोई ऐसा बीज तैयार हो जाए, कोई ऐसा तरीका निकल जाए, जिससे किसान मूंग, उड़द आदि फसलों की बिजाई दोबारा कर ले, क्योंकि इनका भाव ठीक है। हरियाणा ने एमएसपी दे रखी है, लेकिन एमएसपी के समय वह कहते हैं कि आपकी फसल और बीज, मूंग, मसूर और उड़द की क्वालिटी ठीक नहीं रही है। आप इसके बचाव के तरीके को जरूर बताएं"

1.33 The Committee further expressed their opinion regarding Varietal Development of Seeds -

"आपने दाल और तेलहन के उत्पादन की वृद्धि के बारे में बताया है कि कोई 40 प्रतिशत, कोई 30 प्रतिशत और कोई 20 प्रतिशत बढ़ गया है। हकीकत में अब धीरे-धीरे गेहूं और चावल का क्षेत्र देश में बढ़ता जा रहा है। दाल और तेलहन के बारे में मैडम ने बताया है कि हमने इसे चावल

और गेहूं की जमीन को भी इनसे बदल दिया, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं है। केवल सूखे इलाके में ये चीजें पैदा हो रही हैं। अगर हम हरियाणा की बात करें तो एक भी एकड़ में दाल और तेलहन की फसल बोना चाहें तो वहां नहीं होगा। ये सूखे इलाके में होते हैं और जहां पर भी थोड़ा पानी नहर का लग गया तो ये चीजें खत्म हो गईं। इस समस्या को दूर के लिए क्या तरीका हो सकता है? आप व्यावहारिक तौर पर देखिए कि इसके लिए क्या बदलाव हो सकते हैं? पैडी की वजह से सारा हरियाणा मारा दिया गया। आप पैसा एफसीआई के मार्फत देते हैं। बिहार जैसे प्रदेश के किसान वहां भी लूटते हैं और वे हमारे ऊपर दबाव बनाते हैं, वे सारे इधर आ जाते हैं।"

1.34 The Department has submitted:

"....अब इसमें हम 90 परसेंट तक पहुंच जाएंगे। इसके लिए स्ट्रेटजी सिम्पल है कि कम से कम 600 कलस्टर्स और 347 जनपद हैं, ये बढ़ भी सकते हैं अगर राज्य चाहे तो इनमें 10 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन हर साल लेगा और हर साल 10 लाख हेक्टेयर पर 10 लाख किसानों को, ब्रीडर्स को, जिनकी फिजीबिलिटी ब्रीडर से लेकर सर्टिफाईड तक होगी, उन्हें हम उन्नत बीज देंगे। हमारी कोशिश है कि पांच साल से पहले दें अभी तक की जो उन्नत वैराइटी है। अगर नहीं है तब हम उस अनुसंधान से वैराइटी लाने का काम करेंगे और पांच से दस साल तक जाएंगे। हमारी प्रियारिटी यही रहेगी कि सबसे लेटेस्ट वैराइटी ट्रेनिंग के साथ फ्री उपलब्ध कराएं। कुल एरिया 300 लाख हेक्टेयर है, हम करीब 23 से 25 परसेंट एरिया में अपनी तरफ से, जैसा माननीय सांसद ने कहा है कि हर साल नए किसान लेंगे। यह सिस्टम ऑनलाइन होगा ताकि वही किसान दोबारा न आएं।..."

1.35 The Committee expressed its concern on Upper price ceiling of Seeds not being fixed including seeds being sold by private sector companies and raised the following question:

"दूसरा सवाल यह है कि अनुसंधान क्षेत्र में निजी क्षेत्र का हस्तक्षेप है। यह हमारे लिए बहुत ही चिंता का विषय है। कई कंपनियों के द्वारा, खास तौर पर सरसो का जो बीज बिका है, xxxxx कंपनी ने बीज बाजार में 1100 रुपये पर केजी बेचा है, क्योंकि हाइब्रिड अच्छा है। इसकी चिंता डिपार्टमेंट को नहीं है। 1 लाख 10 हजार रुपये प्रति क्विंटल का रेट है। हम इस देश में कौन से नियम बना रहे हैं? क्या हम अच्छे बीज के नाम पर कितने भी पैसे ले सकते हैं? अगर आप निजी क्षेत्र को इन्वॉल्व कर रहे हैं तो आपको एक बेंचमार्क बनाना होगा कि हमारे सीड का अधिकतम दाम कैसे तय होगा और उसके

लिए क्या मैकेनिज्म होगा? अभी तक हमारा जो अनुभव है, उसके हिसाब से कृषि क्षेत्र में एमएसपी से तीन गुना ज्यादा बीज के दाम नहीं होने चाहिए, लेकिन 70 रुपये और 1100 रुपये, यह रेट 15 गुना ज्यादा है।"

1.36 The Committee also expressed its view on Upper Price Ceiling of Seeds as to why it is necessary and felt:

"किसी भी बीज का दाम तीन गुना से ज्यादा नहीं होना चाहिए। अनुसंधान क्षेत्र में निजी क्षेत्र आएंगे तो उनकी भूमिका को चिह्नित करना होगा। एमएसपी बहुत ज्यादा इम्पोर्टेंट है। हम जब तक एमएसपी नहीं देंगे, तब तक कोई भी उत्पादन नहीं होगा। हम कितना भी नीति निर्माण कर लें, अगर हम 10 हजार या 20 हजार करोड़ रुपये भी खर्च करेंगे, चूँकि आपके पास उत्पादन इनपुट पर तो 10 हजार करोड़ रुपये है, लेकिन एमएसपी पर कितना खर्च करेंगे, उसका कोई जिक्र नहीं है। एमएसपी को प्रोटेक्ट करने के लिए मार्केट से और एमएसपी में डिफरेंस अमाउंट क्या होगा, उसकी चर्चा यहां पर नहीं है। उसके लिए हमारा प्रोजेक्शन नहीं है। अगर उत्पादन बढ़ेगा तो रेट घटने लगेंगे। उसके कंपनसेशन के लिए हमें प्रोविजन करना होगा, नहीं तो कोई फायदा नहीं है।"

1.37 During the Oral evidence, the Committee further expressed their opinion on the matter pertaining to Upper Price Ceiling of Seeds:

"इन्होंने एक बात यह भी कही है कि 20 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम वाली चीज लिफाफे में डाल कर एक हजार रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम की चीज बन जाती है। मैं बीज की बात कर रहा हूं। क्या आप ऐसा कोई सिस्टम तैयार कर रहे हैं, ताकि बीज का मैक्सिमम प्राइस तय हो जाए। गेहूं का बीज एक हजार रुपये और दो हजार रुपये प्रति किलो मिल रहा है, इसका क्या मतलब है?"

1.38 On the issue of Upper Price Ceiling of Seeds, the Department has submitted before the Committee:

"यह मक्के के बीज की बात हुई थी।

.....

सर, सामान्यत: हम मानते हैं कि अपना बीज अच्छे क्वालिटी का बेचे। हम लोग प्राइवेट सेक्टर पर सामान्यत: रिस्ट्रिक्शन नहीं रखते हैं। लेकिन, हमने एक मामले में ऐसा किया है। जब कॉटन का मामला आया था तो उसका बहुत हाई रेट हो गया था। हम लोग बीटी कॉटन के बीज की प्राइस को अपर लिमिट रखने लगे हैं।"

1.39 During the Oral Evidence, the Committee expressed the need of a Regulatory Body to determine prices of Seeds-

"इससे मैकेनिजम सेट होगा। जैसे आप एमएसपी को तय करते हैं कि उसमें कितनी पानी लगी, कितनी खाद लगी, कितनी मेहनत लगी, उससे आप एक रेट पर आ जाते हैं कि यह मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस है। बीज का जो रेट है, उसके लिए भी आपकी एक कमेटी बननी चाहिए। जैसे एमएसपी सेट करने के लिए कमेटी बनी हुई है, उसी प्रकार बीज की भी बन जानी चाहिए। बीज के बारे में आप तय करें कि जो हाइब्रीड बीज है, उसमें कितनी रिसर्च हुई, कितना खर्चा हुआ, उसके हिसाब से रेट फिक्स होना चाहिए।"

1.40 The Committee desired to know regarding the mechanism for licensing of hybrid seed and the role of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in production of Hybrid seeds:-

"कोई भी आपके पास लाइसेंस के लिए आएगा। लाइसेंस में हम उसके टेक्नोलॉजी का मूल्यांकन करते हैं। इसके साथ आप और क्या चेक करते हैं? हालांकि किसी बीज को रिलीज करने के लिए बिहार में दो-तीन सालों से ऐसा नहीं हुआ है। दूसरा विषय है कि उसी में इनसे मांग लेना है, क्योंकि उनको पैसे का हिसाब-किताब देना ही है। हमारे पास आईसीएआर है और हम भी सीड्स प्रोड्यूस कर रहे हैं। क्या आईसीएआर के लोग हाइब्रिड प्रोड्यूस नहीं करते है?"

1.41 The Department has submitted:

"सर, आईसीएआर में हाइब्रिड सीड प्रोड्यूस होता है। आईसीएआर तो सब कुछ का हाइब्रिड निकालता है।

.....

सर, हम अपने बीज की कॉस्टिंग करते हैं। राष्ट्रीय बीज निगम जो बांटता है, उसमें हम लोग खुद कॉस्ट निकाल कर कहते हैं कि यह कॉस्ट होगी और उसमें यह सब्सिडी होगी। उसके लिए व्यवस्था हो सकती है।"

1.42 During the course of Oral Evidence, the Committee opined for the need for a regulator in Agriculture like other sectors

"हम एग्रीकल्चर सेक्टर में रेगुलेटर की व्यवस्था क्यों नहीं कर सकते हैं? आज हर जगह रेगुलेटर है। छोटे-छोटे इश्यूज के लिए रेगुलेटर है। मैं पूरे देश में 20 परसेंट से ज्यादा एग्रीकल्चर मानता हूं। यहां पर रेगुलेटर क्यों नहीं होना चाहिए? हम सिर्फ रेगुलेटर की बात कह रहे हैं। इसे रेगुलेटर तय कर दे।"

1.43 The Department has submitted:

"सर, इस पर हम लोग गंभीरता से विचार करेंगे।"

1.44 The Committee desired to know the impact and effects of Imposition of import duties on certain categories of agricultural produce to protect domestic farmers:-

"सभापति जी, अभी बताया गया है कि सोयाबीन ऑयल इम्पोर्ट पर सरकार ने 27 प्रतिशत इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी लगाई है। अभी सोयाबीन खराब स्थिति में है, क्योंकि सोयाबीन का प्रोडक्शन है, लेकिन रेट कम है। रेट कम होने के कारण सोयाबीन का किसान हतोत्साहित हो रहा है। क्या इसमें गुजाइंश है कि सोया केक पर भी इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी लगाई जाए? अगर केक पर ड्यूटी लगाएंगे तो निश्चित तौर पर सोयाबीन के दाम अच्छे हो जाएंगे और किसान प्रोत्साहित होगा। अभी भी आपने जो आँकड़े दिखाए हैं, इसमें 50 परसेंट से कम उत्पादन हो रहा है और 50 परसेंट से ज्यादा हम इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं। इम्पोर्ट करने में जो पैसे खर्च होते हैं, अगर वही पैसे किसानों की तरफ जाएंगे तो हमारा प्रोडक्शन भी बढ़ेगा और किसान की हालत भी ठीक होगी। इसलिए उसमें इसके प्रोत्साहन की कोई योजना होनी चाहिए। कमेटी की तरफ से रिकमेंडेशन जानी चाहिए। विशेषकर सोया केक पर इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी लगाने की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए, ताकि सोयाबीन के दाम अच्छे हो जाए।"

1.45 The Department has submitted:

"...

सोयाबीन से 18 परसेंट ही ऑयल निकलता है। इसके दाम इतना कम हो गए हैं कि क्रशर्स के लिए सोयाबीन को एमएसपी पर खरीदना चैलेंज हो गया है। यह ऑयल मल्टीपल यूज होता है। हम आपके सुझावों को देखेंगे कि क्या पॉसिबल हो सकता है।.."

1.46 The Committee desired to know about the impact of Free Trade Agreements, currently being negotiated with different countries, on farmer interests -

"प्रेजेंटली यूएस से इम्पोर्ट की बात हो रही है, उससे हमारी मार्केट पर क्या इफेक्ट होने वाला है? आप इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी कितनी कम कर रहे हैं या ज्यादा कर रहे हैं, हमें इसकी जानकारी चाहिए, ताकि हम कमेटी में एक्सप्लोर कर सकें कि हमारा नुकसान हो रहा है या फायदा हो रहा है।"

1.47 The Department has submitted :-

"सर, निगोसेसिएशन मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ कॉमर्स कर रहा है, अभी काफी बात चल रही है, हम फार्मर्स के इंट्रेस्ट को प्रोटेक्ट करने के लिए पूरा प्रयासरत हैं। हम सुनिश्चित करा रहे हैं कि ऐसा कोई डिसीजन न हो लांग टर्म या शार्ट टर्म में किसानों का व्यापक नुकसान हो, लेकिन जब तक फाइनल डील नहीं होती, उसे गोपनीय रखा जाता है।"

1.48 The Committee felt the need to fix accountability of States Seeds Corporation (SSCs) -

"अब बीज को किसानों तक पहुंचाने की व्यवस्था हमारे पास नहीं है। मैं बिहार का एक छोटा उदाहरण दूंगा। यह देश भर में कमोबेश है। हम बीज निगम से कितना परसेंट टीएल सीड बांट रहे हैं? इसकी केवल एक रिपोर्ट मंगाएं। सभी राज्यों में सीड बांटने के लिए बीज निगम हैं। उनसे रिपोर्ट मांगें कि वे कितना टीएल कर रहे हैं? टीएल को हम मान लें कि वैराइटल रिप्लेसमेंट है, तो फिर ब्रीडर और सर्टिफाइड का कोई मतलब ही नहीं रह गया। यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। आप जो रिप्लेसमेंट कह रहे हैं, वह मैं नहीं मानता। यह जो खेल है, इस खेल में बीज निगम पूरे देश में शामिल है। बीज निगम रद्दी बीज निगम बांट रहे हैं। आप विभाग की तरफ से लिखें कि हम उसी को पैसा देंगे, जो प्रमाणित और ब्रीडर सीड ही ले जाएंगे। हम टीएल नहीं मानते। हम एक भी पैसे की सब्सिडी उनके लिए नहीं देंगे। यह बात लिखनी पड़ेगी। यह ठीक है कि राज्यों का कृषि क्षेत्र में विशेषाधिकार है, लेकिन वे अपने पैसे से यह करें। उनको पैसा लुटवाना है, लुटवाएं, लेकिन हम केंद्र सरकार का पैसा क्यों दें, यह स्पष्ट डायरेक्शन यहां से जाना चाहिए।"

1.49 The Department has submitted :

"...

दूसरा, मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि हम लोगों ने बिलकुल स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि राज्यों के बीज निगमों का यह उद्देश्य नहीं था था कि वह किसी वेंडर से बीज खरीद कर बांटे। राज्यों के बीज निगमों का यही उद्देश्य था कि वह खुद ग्रोवर्स को ट्रेंड करके इनकलकेट करें, आईसीएआर और विश्वविद्यालय से बिडर्स और फाउंडेशन ले और उसको सीधे सर्टिफाई। हमारी सर्टिफाई एजेंसीज हैं। वह खुद बेचे। हमारी सब्सिडी में जो योजना है, उसमें बेचे। कमोबेश कई राज्यों में हमने देखा कि यह चल रहा है। वे लोग करीब हंड्रेड परसेंट बीज ग्रोवर्स से दिलवाते हैं। वहां जरूर है कि एन्फोर्समेंट थोड़ा अच्छा होना चाहिए, जिससे सर्टिफिकेशन ठीक से हो। कई राज्यों में यह हो रहा था कि बहुत बड़ा शेयर इधर-उधर से ला रहे थे। हम लोगों ने स्पष्ट किया है कि इसे हतोत्साहित करना है। आपकी भावना है कि हम लोग सर्टिफाइड सीड ही बंटवाएंगे। वहां ऐसी स्थिति आती है, अगर हम ऑयल सीड में देखें कि वह हाइली यील्ड वेराइटीज न हो। हाइब्रीड वेराइटीज बहुत पॉपुलर है। हाइब्रीड वेराइटीज हर जगह पैदा नहीं हो पाती है। इसके लिए हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं। यह ज्यादातर कर्नाटक और तेलंगाना में होती है। यह जरूर होता है कि वहां हाइब्रीड वेराइटीज की मांग होती है। हम लोग यही चाह रहे हैं कि हाइब्रीड बीज भी राज्य के बीज निगम और हमारे नेशनल सीड कॉरपोरेशन से लेकर आए। उसमें हमारा ऐसा उद्देश्य है और उसको हम मॉनिटर भी कर रहे हैं। मॉनिटर करने के सिस्टम के बारे में शायद हमने पिछली बार नहीं बताया था, लेकिन मैं उसका विवरण भेज दूंगा।"

1.50 During the Oral evidence, the Committee raised the issue related to Seed Replacement Rate(SRR) -

"मैं मुख्य समस्याओं के बारे में बताऊंगा। एक तरफ से यह कहा गया है कि जो सीड का रिप्लेसमेंट है, वह ऑलमोस्ट 95 परसेंट से ऊपर है, लेकिन यह जवाब में कहा गया कि हमारे देश में 75 परसेंट किसान छोटे हैं और वर्षा पर निर्भर हैं। इसीलिए वहां उत्पादकता कम हो जाती है, क्योंकि देशी वैरायटी का इस्तेमाल कर दिया जाता है। ये दोनों ही कंट्राडिक्ट्री स्टेटमेंट्स हैं। इनको करेक्ट किया जाए। इसमें या तो हमारा रिप्लेसमेंट 95 परसेंट नहीं है या फिर हमारे 75 परसेंट किसानों की कम पानी या पानी की उपलब्धता न होने से उसकी उत्पादकता कम होगी। यह कंट्राडिक्ट्री स्टेटमेंट था।"

1.51 The Department has submitted :

"सर, इसमें मैं दो-तीन महत्वपूर्ण बिंदुओं पर जवाब दूंगा और बाकी का लिखित में जवाब दे दूंगा। जो वैराइटी ऑफ रिप्लेसमेंट रेट है, उसमें यह है कि वैराइटी रिप्लेस होनी चाहिए। सीड रिप्लेसमेंट रेट होता है कि सीड नया कितना रिप्लेस हुआ। वैराइटी तो आ रही है, लेकिन वह लोकल लेवल पर पहुंच जाए, उसी को हम लोग इस मिशन से कोशिश करेंगे कि वह उन एरियाज़ में पहुंच जाए और उसी से उन राज्यों में जाए, जहां खराब प्रोडक्टिविटी है। ....."

1.52 The Committee desired to know about the status of Seeds Bill:

"आज तक आपका सीड से संबंधित कानून नहीं बना। यह वर्ष 2008 से पेंडिंग है। संसद की स्थायी समिति से आप क्या उम्मीद करते हैं कि इस मामले में हम क्या रिपोर्ट दें? यह कानून नही बनेगा, तो यह खेल चलता रहेगा। सरकार यदि नहीं मान रही है, तो हमें बताएं। हम यहां से रिकमेंड करेंगे कि सीड कानून आप ले आएं। वर्ष 2008 से यह पेंडिंग है। वर्ष 2008 से सीड कानून संसद के सामने गया ही नहीं या वहां पेंडिंग है। सचिव साहब, क्या यह संसद के सामने गया था? क्या लोगों ने वहां रोका या आपके मंत्रालय से यह बिल मूव नहीं हुआ?"

1.53 The Department has submitted:

"सर, एक बार जा चुका है।"

1.54 During the Oral evidence, the Committee raised the matter regarding Genetically Modified (GM) Seeds and its related aspects:-

"एक अंतिम बात मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि भारत में जी.एम. फसल रिस्ट्रिक्टेड है, लेकिन कोई भी जी.एम. प्रोडक्ट विदेश से भारत के अंदर आ रहा है तो उसको रोकने के लिए डिपार्टमेंट ने क्या मैकेनिज्म तैयार किया है? यह प्रोडक्ट जी.एम. फ्री है यह हमको गारंटी चाहिए। जैसे हमारे देश में ए.के.-47 गैर कानूनी है, वह विदेश से कोई ला रहा है तब भी वह गैर कानूनी है और यहां रख रहा है तब भी गैर कानूनी है। ठीक उसी तरह से जब जी.एम. रिस्ट्रिक्टेड है, गैर कानूनी है तो कोई भी जी.एम. प्रोडक्ट भारत में आ रहा है तो उसका सर्टिफिकेट लेना पड़ेगा कि यह जी.एम. फ्री है। वह पाम ऑयल का मामला हो, अनाज का मामला हो, तिलहन का मामला हो, दलहन का मामला हो। जब वह हमारे यहां गैर कानूनी है, वह किसी भी तरीके से आयात होता है तो हमारे सिस्टम को बर्बाद करेगा, स्वास्थ्य को भी बर्बाद करेगा और हमारे कानून को भी चुनौती दे रहा है यह मेरी अंतिम बात है।"

1.55 During the Oral evidence, the Committee stressed the need for KVK in every district of the country:-

> "मेरे प्रदेश की एक महत्वपूर्ण बात है जिस मैं समिति के सामने रखना चाहता हूं। मैंने दो बार केवीके के लिए मांग की, लेकिन दोनों बार जवाब आया कि आपका प्रदेश क्षेत्रफल में बहुत छोटा है और उसका क्राइटेरिया फुलफिल नहीं करता है, जबकि केवीके की मार्गदर्शिका के अनुसार हर जिले में केवीके होना चाहिए। हमारे लिए यह बहुत दुखद है कि पूरे यूटी में केवीके नहीं है। हमें कहा जा रहा है कि आपके प्रदेश का क्षेत्रफल छोटा है। इसमें हम क्या कर सकते हैं? इस प्रकार से तो हमारे राज्य और प्रदेश में एमपी की सीट भी नहीं होनी चाहिए क्योंकि आपका प्रदेश की नगरपालिका का एक वार्ड भी हमारे प्रदेश से बड़ा होगा। यह सीट क्यों दी गई है ताकि हमारे साथ अनजस्टिस न हो और हमें भी लोकतांत्रिक प्रणाली में जीने का अधिकार है।"

1.56 The Committee also desired that guidelines need to be changed to ensure KVK in every district of the country:-

> "केवीके के लिए मार्गदर्शिका बना दी गई है कि यह हर जिले में होना चाहिए और दूसरी तरफ जनसंख्या की बात कर रह हैं। मैं समिति से रिक्वेस्ट करता हूं कि हम मार्गदर्शिका के लिए रिकमेंडेशन करें कि कम से कम एक यूटी में एक केवीके हो, जिससे किसानों को बेनिफिट मिले। आईसीएआर का सेंटर भी उन्हें मिलना चाहिए ताकि वहां के लोगों को उसका बैनीफिट मिले।"

1.57 On being asked by the Committee during oral evidence, regarding the penal provisions in the existing Seeds Bill, the Department has submitted:

> "...प्राइवेट बीज की बहुत शिकायत होती है कि वे नकली बीज बांटते हैं। यह बात सही है कि हमारा जो सीड एक्ट है, उसमें दो सबसे बड़ी खामियाँ थीं। एक तो वर्ष 1966 का पाँच सौ और हजार रूपये का फाइन अभी तक चला आ रहा है। अभी यह नहीं के बराबर है। इसको बढ़ाने के लिए हमारा प्रयास चल रहा है, ताकि बीज कंपनियों पर नकेल हो।"

Processing of Oilseeds

1.58 On being asked by the Committee as to which specific enzymes are most effective for enhancing oil yield from Oilseeds and how does enzymatic

digestion affect the nutritional value of Oilseeds, the Department has submitted:

> "Enzymatic digestion in oilseed processing offers several environmental benefits including reduced pollution, lower energy consumption and improved quantity and quality of extracted oil. It can replace harsh chemicals and solvents minimizing waste and enhancing sustainability."

1.59 The Committee desired to know about the environmental benefits in using enzymatic digestion for Oilseed processing and how does enzymatic digestion compare to other pretreatment methods in terms of cost & the main challenges in implementing enzymatic digestion for Oilseed processing. The Department has submitted:

> "Environmental Benefits of Enzymatic Digestion in Oilseed Processing:
>
> Enzymatic digestion offers a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative to conventional oilseed processing methods. Unlike traditional solvent extraction, which is often reliant on hexane and other volatile organic compounds. Enzyme-assisted techniques eliminate the need for hazardous solvents, significantly reducing environmental emissions and occupational health risks.
>
> a) Reduction in Chemical Usage: Traditional solvent extraction methods often employ organic solvents like hexane, which are volatile and pose environmental and health risks. Enzymatic processes eliminate the need for such solvents, thereby reducing the emission of volatile organic compounds and associated environmental hazards.
>
> b) Lower Energy Consumption: Enzymatic processes operate under milder conditions, requiring less energy than mechanical or chemical methods. This decreases carbon footprint and energy savings (DSM Food & Beverage, 2023).
>
> c) Improved Waste Management: Enzyme-assisted extraction not only improves oil yield but also preserves the nutritional integrity of the extracted oil. Furthermore, it presents a sustainable and environmentally benign alternative

to conventional solvent-based methods. Notably, enzymatic processes can reduce Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) by approximately 75% and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) by up to 45% in resultant effluents. Additionally, enzyme application mitigates the formation of free fatty acids and oxidative byproducts, thereby enhancing the stability and shelf-life of the extracted oil during subsequent storage and processing.

d) Cost Comparison for Enzymatic Digestion vs. Other Pretreatment Methods While enzymatic digestion offers environmental benefits, cost considerations are crucial.

e) Initial Investment: The setup for enzymatic processing may involve higher initial costs due to the need for specific equipment and enzyme procurement. However, these costs can be offset by long-term savings in energy and waste management.

f) Operational Costs: Enzymatic processes can lead to higher oil yields, improving overall profitability. Based on a recent lifecycle assessment, enzymatic pre-treatment was shown to reduce the carbon footprint of the production process by 30-35% compared to a non-enzymatic solution offering both environmental and economic benefits (DSM Food & Beverage, 2023).

g) Maintenance and Downtime: Enzymatic processes may result in less equipment wear and tear, reducing maintenance costs and downtime compared to mechanical methods.

Main Challenges in Implementing Enzymatic Digestion for Oilseed Processing: Several challenges need to be addressed for the successful implementation of enzymatic digestion: a) Enzyme Cost and Availability: The cost and consistent supply of high-quality enzymes can be a limiting factor. Developing cost-effective enzyme production methods or sourcing from reliable suppliers is essential. b) Process Optimization: Enzymatic processes require precise control of parameters such as pH, temperature, and reaction time. Variations in these parameters can affect efficiency and yield, necessitating thorough process optimization. c) Integration with Existing Infrastructure: Adapting existing

facilities to accommodate enzymatic processes may require modifications, which could involve additional investment and training for personnel."

Functioning of Coconut Development Board

1.60 On being asked to elaborate on the reforms required in the Coconut Development Board to make it more effective and cater to new avenues for promotion of coconut produced in the country and coconut oil in the domestic and international markets, the Department has submitted:

- "Yes, The MANAGE, Hyderabad had conducted a peer review of the CDB to identify areas for improvement and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements during 2024.
- From the year 2025 onwards, the Board had revised the cost norms by enhancing the financial assistance to 2-10 times under all schemes benefiting all stake holders in coconut sector which was one of the recommendation of the peer review.
- Since the production and productivity is the major concern in coconut farming, the Board is implementing the scheme 'Productivity Improvement Through Coconut Based Cropping System' and "Replanting and rejuvenation in Coconut".
- In order to meet the demand for quality planting material, assistance under nursery schemes has been enhanced to 10 fold.
- For increase the value addition in coconut, the financial assistance for establishing the coconut processing unit is enhanced to a maximum of Rs.3.00 crores
- Board has already been implemented some of the recommendations of the peer review with the approval of enhanced cost norms for major schemes of the Board from 2025-26 onwards."

Part- II

Observations/ Recommendations

Reduce Import Dependence through Enhanced Procurement & Price Support

1. The Committee note that India imports 56% of its edible oil needs (15.66 MMT in 2023-24 and 2.13 MMT of Pulses in 2023-24), straining foreign exchange reserves and exposing farmers to global price volatility.

The Committee are of the view that by strengthening PM-AASHA Scheme, Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurement under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) needs to be expanded to cover 100% of National Oilseeds and Pulse production, up from 25% at present. It should be ensured that 100% procurement of Pigeon pea (Tur), Urad, and Lentil (Masur) must be done in all Pulses producing States as announced in the Budget for FY- 2025-26. A dedicated online portal and 24 hours Farmer Helpline may be established & given wide publicity to boost the cause of Pulse producers. The Committee also feel that New Procurement Centres should be opened in backward districts/ Remote locations with sub optimal road and below par digital connectivity to ensure that Farmers residing in these areas are able to fetch good prices for their produce.

The Committee feel that in order to Incentivize production of Palm Oil, NMEO-OP needs to be fastracked and the Department also needs to provide Viability Gap Payments (VGP) adequately for Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) and subsidize planting material costs upto 80%.

The Committee strongly recommend that the Government should devise such mechanism wherein import duties gets dynamically adjusted based on domestic production levels to protect farmers from cheap imports. The Committee also feel that 20% safeguard duty or as such percentage as felt relevant by the concerned Government authorities needs to be imposed on Palm Oil imports if and when global prices fall below $800/tonne or any other rate fixed by the Government which would help & espouse the cause of Indian farmers.

The Committee also recommend that the Oilseeds Division of the Department needs to function under the leadership of a Mission Head-Oilseeds with a minimum tenure of 03 (three) years to provide stability in decision making & to promote Oilseeds, shape Policy Formulation, ensure supply chain risks thereby providing market stability & enhance market resilience and help the Ministry of Commerce & Trade in drafting Trade Policies with a view to support food security and economic growth. The Committee further recommend that global best practices may be adopted to ensure sustainable production, enhancing export

potential and reducing import reliance. These measures if taken simultaneously, will reduce edible oil import dependence significantly, bring down Pulse imports to near zero by 2030 thereby saving several thousands of crores annually in foreign exchange.

Enhance Productivity through Advanced Varietal Development and Seed Systems

2. The Committee note that Yield gaps in Oilseeds *[e.g. India's groundnut productivity at 2,067 kg/ha vs. Uzbekistan's 15,519 kg/ha]* and Pulses *[e.g. India's Chickpea (Gram) productivity at 1171.6 kg/ha vs. Jordan's 11877.9 kg/ha]* are primarily due to low adoption of high-yielding varieties (HYVs) and inadequate seed replacement rates (SRR) for Oilseeds and Pulses across many states.

The Committee are of the view that to accelerate Varietal Development, adequate investments in biotechnology, including Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR)-Cas9, Marker-Assisted selection (MAS) & other latest techniques need to be used, to develop Climate-resilient, high-yielding, and pest-resistant varieties within the ambit of existing laws of the country. For Oilseeds, the focus needs to be on Groundnut (*aflatoxin-resistant, high-oleic)*, Soybean *(drought-tolerant)*, and Mustard *(Orobanche-tolerant).* As far as Pulses are concerned, short-duration and disease-resistant

varieties of Chickpea (Gram), Pigeon pea (Tur), and Lentil (Masoor) needs to be given top priority. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) should aim to release new varieties in Oilseeds and Pulses covering region specific each by 2028, building on the varieties it has released since 2014.

The Committee are of the view that the Department should open at least one Seed Hub in every District of the Country by 2030 equipped with upgraded infrastructure including equipments with latest technologies. These hubs should produce Breeder and Foundation seeds, targeting 100% Seeds Replacement Rates (SRR) for notified varieties less than 5 years old. Breeder seed purchases need to be subsidized fully, under NMEO-OS, and Schemes incentivizing Private Sector participation in Seed multiplication with due accountability, needs to be launched. In addition to Quarterly/Half Yearly/Annual reviews of the Schemes run by the Department/Ministry being done to assess their effectiveness and impact. The Committee are also of the view that Performance Audit and Review of these Schemes may be done after every 2 years to know the bottlenecks existing in the system to refine strategies for improving efficacy of the Schemes.

The Committee are further of the view that Model of Public- Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Seed development can be initiated/ popularized,

where Research Institutes can collaborate with Indian Seed Companies, be it Public or Private, to achieve 2-3 times higher yields than existing National averages and to also fast-track varietal dissemination.

Upgrade Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory (SATHI) portal to evolve as a Comprehensive National Seed Grid

3. The Committee feel that SATHI can evolve into a comprehensive National Seed Grid for India by expanding its integration, technology, scope, and oversight to address all aspects of the national seed supply chain. For this, SATHI must onboard all remaining States, Union Territories, and regulatory bodies, ensuring that every seed producer, processor, distributor, retailer, and farmer in India is registered and contributing data to the platform. This involves aligning workflows and objectives among diverse entities like ICAR, State and Central seed certification authorities/bodies and testing labs.

The Committee note that currently both the phases i.e. Phase I & II of SATHI have been developed and Phase-II is being rolled out, to expand into comprehensive seed supply chain and inventory management. All seed bag movements should be logged in real time using QR/barcodes, from origin (nucleus seed) to the final sale to farmers, thereby ensuring end-to-end traceability and authentication.

National standards must be harmonized across all states, adopting a "One Nation, One Licence" model for seed registration and ensuring seamless integration and recognition of digital traceability standards. While states can customize certain modules to local needs, a set of minimum technical, quality, and reporting standards must be enforced nationwide to guarantee data and operational consistency. Incorporation of advanced analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) /Machine Learning (ML) tools to forecast demand for various seed varieties region-wise will help avoid shortages or glut. These predictive technologies must factor in both domestic and potential international requirements to inform national seed planning and production.

The Committee are of the view that by linking SATHI with central farmer databases, Krishi Mapper, Agri Stack and subsidy disbursal mechanisms (like Direct Benefit Transfer through PFMS), the system can ensure only registered, eligible farmers receive certified seeds and associated benefits, reducing leakages and malpractice.

The Committee also feel that a robust digital backbone should enable farmers, at any point, to verify the origin, quality, test reports, and certification status of the seeds they purchase simply by scanning QR codes, enabling direct grievance redressal and fraud prevention.

Digitized approvals and single-window licensing will simplify compliance and foster private-public sector collaboration.

The Committee strongly recommend that SATHI portal needs to cover all 36 States/UTs by 2027, integrating QR-coded tags for real-time tracking of seeds and should serve as a single window for seed certification workflows, laboratory reports, seed variety notifications, and licensing across states—harmonizing standards and procedures nationwide and minimizing regional regulatory disparities. National and state agricultural departments, certification authorities, private companies, and farmer organizations must be required to integrate their systems or data streams with the SATHI platform. Policies should incentivize participation and ensure that the database is fully representative of the entire sector.

The evolution of SATHI into a National grid needs widespread awareness, digital literacy initiatives, and ongoing technical support for all stakeholders, including small dealers and marginal farmers, to ensure inclusive adoption. For this, at least 5000 Extension workers per district per year may be trained till 2030 to promote SATHI usage. By offering policymakers dashboards and analytical tools, SATHI can enable dynamic monitoring of seed flows, supply–demand mismatches,

and alert the government to areas requiring intervention—crucial during crop failures, disasters, or new pest outbreaks.

The Committee also strongly recommend that SATHI should incorporate open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to allow legacy systems from States that already have digital seed platforms to interface with SATHI, promoting scalability without duplicating infrastructure investment.

The Committee are confident that if all these facets are implemented, SATHI will not only function as a digital monitoring tool but as a true National Seed Grid—ensuring transparent, efficient, and equitable seed supply for every Indian farmer, while also supporting India's food security and competitiveness in the global seed market.

Need to fix Upper Price Ceiling of Seeds- Setting up of a National Commission to fix Upper Price Ceiling of Seeds

4. The Committee note that Seeds are the most vital input in Agriculture and Farmers, especially Small and Marginal ones, need to be protected from unregulated seed prices which can dramatically reduce their profitability, leading them to indebtedness. The Committee feel that a legitimate price ceiling protects the interests of both stakeholders, farmers as well as the Corporates, supporting inclusive

agricultural growth. Without Upper price ceiling of seeds, dominant Seed Companies often set arbitrarily high prices, exploit market conditions and create illegal and artificial barriers in accessing essential agricultural technology.

The Committee strongly recommend the setting up of a National Commission/Regulatory body to fix Upper Ceiling price of Seeds being marketed in the Country with the basic aim to protect farmers interests. Such body should have adequate representation of farmers representatives, State Governments and industry associations in it. The process to fix prices of Seeds need to be consultative and more transparent to ensure that actual performance & cost incurred in producing the Seeds gets reflected while at the same time, farmers are assured of the quality of the seeds and their productivity. Farmers need to be compensated in matters of seeds being found fake/spurious and the settlement process for getting compensation in matters of fake seeds should not be a cumbersome one.

The Committee also recommend the State Governments need to be sensitized more regarding fixing of upper price ceiling of Seeds, balancing affordability for farmers with fair compensation for Seed developers.

Urgent need for New Seeds Bill

5. The Committee are of the view that Seeds are the most critical inputs in any Agricultural ecosystem including Oilseeds & Pulses and farmers its backbone. India's agriculture has transformed significantly over the last few decades bringing along a new set of challenges for farmers. The Seeds Act of 1966, while path-breaking in its time, no longer meets the requirements of a modern, market-driven, and technology-intensive Oilseeds & Pulses sector. The new Seeds Bill is essential in Oilseeds and Pulses sector to ensure seed quality, promote innovation, regulate the private sector, enhance farmer protection, and align with international standards. With Oilseeds & Pulses being central to India's agriculture, economy and food security, the enactment of a progressive, inclusive, and forward-looking Seeds Bill which recognizes the seed sovereignty of farmers is not just a policy need but a national imperative.

The Committee are of the view that the 1966 Seeds Act was enacted during a time when the private seed industry was at its nascent stage. A lot of transformation has happened in Oilseeds & Pulses over the last six decades. The Committee feel that various provisions of the 1966 Seeds Act have become outdated with regard to Oilseeds and Pulses as it does not adequately address the complexities of modern

seed production, including the use of biotechnology & hybrid seeds. The Act lacks provisions for Oilseeds & Pulses which include compulsory registration of seed varieties and licensing of seed producers and processors, hindering quality control and traceability, ultimately leading to regulatory issues and poor implementation.

The Committee feel that the time is ripe for a comprehensive review of the existing legal framework for regulating the production & sale of seeds and accordingly, there is a need for a new Seeds Bill which can address the evolving needs of the Oilseeds & Pulses thereby ensuring availability of high-quality seeds, foster competition among different players in the industry be it private or public and also provide paramount importance to protect farmers interests through better regulation and enforcement.

The Committee are of the view that a new Seeds Act is crucial to ensure that farmers get timely access to high-quality seeds in Oilseeds and Pulses with mandatory certification and barcoding having defined standards of germination, purity, and genetic identity thereby facilitating adoption of new technologies, promoting innovation in seed production and establishing transparent rules for registration, licensing and quality control for firms, organizations etc. operating in the

industry. This in turn will flush out the sale of fake/spurious seeds from the market.

The Committee are of the view that existing penalties are so minimal for violation of extant Bill/provisions for Oilseeds & that they fail to act as deterrent. The Committee are also of the view that currently, there is a lack of uniformity in seed certification procedures for Oilseeds & Pulses across states. So far as Oilseeds & Pulses are concerned, the new Seeds Bill need to have provisions for constitution of a Central Seeds Committee that will develop consistent national standards for seed certification. This will not only enhance the credibility of Indian Oilseeds & Pulses in global markets and but also boost farmers' confidence in the quality assurance process.

The Committee strongly recommend that to reform Oilseeds & Pulses, a new Seeds Bill which recognizes the seed sovereignty rights of farmers, may be brought by the Union Government at the earliest. The Government must recognize indigenous seeds of farmers as well as uphold traditional practices and biodiversity. The Bill should have adequate provisions for farmers to claim compensation from producers, dealers, or distributors if registered varieties fail to perform as expected under specified conditions. The proposed legislation for Oilseeds & Pulses should also outline heavy penalties for non-compliance and

provide mechanisms for the Union Government to issue directions and regulate the seed sector.

The Committee also recommend that the inclusion of farmers' representatives from various geographical zones should be duly emphasized in the formation of any proposed body related to Oilseeds & Pulses be it policy formulation or regulation. The proposed legislation for Oilseeds & Pulses should incorporate regulations for both seed supply & prices and provide a clear-cut scientific definition of GM seeds and foods, to avoid regulatory issues and challenges faced in implementation by the enforcement agencies.

The Committee would examine the existing Seeds Bill and the entire gamut of issues bearing impact on Agriculture in future/due course of time.

Address Regional Disparities through Targeted Interventions

6. The Committee note that Oilseeds and Pulse production is concentrated in states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, while eastern and north-eastern states lag behind due to low productivity and limited cultivation.

The Committee are of the view that the Department should identify low-productivity districts with yields less than 1,000 kg/ha) and

implement Cluster Frontline Demonstrations (CFLDs) under NMEO-OS and NFSNM. The Committee also feel that the Department should provide free Minikits of HYVs to farmers by 2028 and each District should have at least 4 to 5 Distribution Centres delivering such Minikits. The Committee also feel that by Targeting Rice Fallow Areas (TRFA) program in all districts of the country over the next three years and focusing on Rabi Pulses (Lentil, Chickpea) and Oilseeds (Mustard) in States like Assam, Bihar, and Odisha may give a huge impetus to production of Pulses and Oilseeds.

The Committee recommend that mechanized sowing equipment may be subsidized heavily especially for Small and Marginal Farmers to reduce labour costs, obtain higher yields and improved resource use efficiency and enable critical farm operations to be completed on time which in turn will deliver substantial economic, social and environmental benefits. The Department should target to create 10 new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) each in Pulses and Oilseeds, in each district of the country every year till 2027-28 which produces Oilseeds and Pulses, under the 10,000 FPO scheme. The Committee also recommend to sufficiently enhance the existing grants per FPO for post-harvest infrastructure, such as Oil mills and Pulse processing units, especially in backward districts of the country.

The Committee also urge the Government to explore options to utilize regional clusters to disseminate technology and inputs. The Committee also recommend that new Oilseed and Pulses Clusters may be developed in Eastern/North-Eastern States covering all districts by 2028, which should be managed by ICAR and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). The Committee are confident that these steps if taken in tandem, will Increase production in Eastern/North-Eastern states significantly, reduce regional yield disparities drastically and enhance farmer incomes substantially.

Improve Irrigation Infrastructure to Mitigate Rainfed Cultivation Risks

7. The Committee note that over 70% of Oilseeds and 75% of Pulses are grown under rainfed conditions, making them vulnerable to erratic monsoons and droughts, which reduce yields by 20-30% in regions like Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

The Committee are of the view that Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme should be implemented in such a way that it covers almost all rainfed Oilseeds and Pulse producing areas with drip and sprinkler systems over the next five years. The subsidies for Small/Marginal farmers need to be increased significantly to enable them to purchase drip and sprinkler systems. Farmers need to be trained annually on

micro-irrigation maintenance to bolster the effectiveness of the Scheme. Farm ponds and check dams need to be constructed in drought-prone regions like Bundelkhand, Vidarbha, Marathwada, and Rayalaseema over the next three years under the Watershed Development Component of PM-RKVY. These needs to be integrated with solar-powered pumps to ensure year-round water availability.

The Committee strongly recommend that Internet of Things (IoT) based soil moisture sensors and weather-based irrigation scheduling, needs to be given priority to optimize water use. These projects need to be piloted in districts under National Mission on Edible Oils- Oil seeds (NMEO-OS) and National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), covering majority percentage of the agricultural land over the next five years. Farmer Producer Organizations / Farmers need to be given substantial incentives to promote rainwater harvesting and permeable surfaces to recharge groundwater. This need to be piloted in drought-prone districts to support Rabi Pulses and Oilseeds. The Committee are optimistic that these steps, if taken in tandem, will increase yields substantially in rainfed areas, reduce crop failures and enhance water-use efficiency.

Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Practices

8. The Committee note that Monocropping and chemical overuse degrade soil health, reducing long-term productivity. Pulses and Oilseeds offer environmental benefits like nitrogen fixation and low carbon footprints. The Committee are of the view that region-specific intercropping models needs to be promoted, such as Soybean + Pigeon pea in Maharashtra/Central India and Mustard + Wheat in Rajasthan, and to promote & popularize the same among farmers, intercropping seeds may be subsidized heavily under NMEO-OS. The Committee urge the Government to explore options to use rotations of Pulses to reduce fertilizer use. This needs to be piloted in districts under the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).

The Committee reiterate their recommendation made in their 7th Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) pertaining to Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare that Union Government should declare MSP for Organic Produce to give boost to a national effort for transition towards healthier food systems and more sustainable agricultural practices which in turn will induce farmers to adopt Organic farming from chemical-intensive farming and more importantly, for clean climate, human health and a greener tomorrow. Declaration of MSP for Organic Produce including Oilseeds and Pulses

by the Union Government will not only act a game changer for the entire agro community but will also ensure nutritional security and shore up country's foreign reserves in the longer run. Organic Farming needs to be scaled up and for the same, Organic clusters for Sesame, Niger and Speciality Pulses like Moth Bean needs to be developed, targeting export markets like the European Union. To incentivize Farmers, sufficient amount may be provided under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), a component of Pradhan Mantri – Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM- RKVY).

The Committee also recommend that Soil Health needs to be given top priority and Soil Health Cards (SHCs) needs to be issued to all Oilseeds and Pulse farmers over the next two years, integrating recommendations for biofertilizers and micronutrients. The Committee further recommend that latest innovative Soil Health Checking Machines having features such as latest Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Internet of Things (IoT), advanced spectroscopy and so on should be made available at all Blocks throughout the Country over the next three years. Lack of availability of these latest Soil health machines at Block level is acting as a major impediment for farmers who want to opt for Organic farming. Vermi composting and Neem-based pest control needs to be promoted by the Government. The Committee are confident

that these steps if taken together will improve Soil organic carbon upto 20%, reduce fertilizer drastically and increase Organic exports significantly boosting country's exchequer.

Strengthen Market Linkages and Value Addition

9. The Committee note that Price volatility and inadequate post-harvest infrastructure lead to distress sales and losses of 5 to 7% for Pulses and upto 10% for Oilseeds.

The Committee are of the view that FPOs infrastructure should be strengthened. New Oil Mills and Pulse Processing Units, to be managed by FPOs, may be established in each district. Modern storage units may be subsidized for Groundnut and Soybean to reduce aflatoxin contamination.

The Committee urge the Government to explore options to incentivize Farmer Cooperatives including Women Cooperatives so that they process sizeable chunk of lentils for exports. Accordingly, new Pulse Producing hubs each year may established in all major Pulse producing States over the next three years.

The Committee strongly recommend that products like Bharat Dal may be scaled up and on similar lines, a Bharat Oil brand for affordable edible oils may be launched, to protect lower and middle income

households, especially during periods of market fluctuations and supply shortages. The Committee also recommend to ensure that 50% of buffer stocks are sold through retail outlets over the next three years. The Committee reiterate the recommendation made in Fifty First Report (17th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2023-24) pertaining to Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare that all Mandis across the country needs to be integrated with National Agriculture Market(e-NAM) platform at the earliest. The Committee now recommend that this process need to be expedited & all Mandis must be integrated with e-NAM platform over the next three years to ensure transparent pricing. Simultaneously, adequate number of new farmers may be trained every year to use e-NAM and e-Samridhi portals for MSP procurement so that over the next three-four years all farmers become well versed with the functioning of these portals. The Committee are confident that these steps if taken together, will not only reduce post-harvest losses but also increase farmer incomes significantly and stabilize consumer prices.

Foster Research and Development for Climate Resilience

10. The Committee note that Climate change, with erratic rainfall and heatwaves, reduces Oilseed and Pulse yields by upto 20%. Research is critical to develop resilient varieties and practices.

The Committee strongly feel that ICAR needs to become a Global Centre of Excellence in Research and accordingly frame rules for recruitment to attract world class talent which is missing now. Annual Performance audit of research programmes run by ICAR must be done by CAG to refine strategies and compare the standards with established global benchmarks to enable judicious use of resources. The Committee urge the Government to explore options to pilot Soybean + Pigeon pea in Central India. The Committee also urge the Government to pilot Conservation Agriculture (zero tillage, mulching) in those districts of the country which have low productivity, not only to increase yields but also to reduce water and carbon footprints.

The Committee recommend that sufficient funds should be allocated to ICAR's All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) on Oilseeds and Pulses by 2030, focusing on drought-tolerant and heat-resistant varieties and accordingly, five new Research Centres each in Oilseeds and Pulses may be established in backward and remote districts. The Committee also recommend that biofertilizers and biopesticides, like Trichoderma for Pulses, should be developed and its production needs to be scaled up through adequate number of bio input units over the next three years. To promote its usage and increase awareness among the farming community, bio inputs need to be subsidized by 50% or so under NFSNM. The Committee are confident

that these steps if taken together, will drastically reduce Climate-induced losses, increase yields substantially and lower carbon emissions.

Leverage Technology for Precision Agriculture and Pest Management

11. The Committee note that Biotic stresses (Pests, diseases) reduce Oilseeds and Pulse yields by 20% or more. Weeds alone can account for substantial yield loss in Oilseeds with additional losses from Pests and diseases. In Pulses too, diseases and Pests, cause huge damage especially in rainfed and traditional farming systems. Low technology adoption including lack of modern sowing equipment, limited use of HYVs and effective Pest and Disease management further dent yield gaps.

The Committee are of the view that the National Pest Surveillance System, currently supporting 61 crops and 400 pests, needs to be expanded to cover all Oilseeds and Pulses within the next two years. The Committee feel that Digital tools can enhance efficiency & resilience and hence adequate number of extension workers, may be trained every year till 2030 initially, to use AI-based diagnostics.

The Committee recommend to use satellite imagery and AI for crop health monitoring. Accordingly, digital twins for Oilseeds and Pulse

fields in 100 districts may be piloted to optimize inputs and predict yields. The Committee also strongly recommend that Drone Technology should be promoted intensively and drone spraying may be subsidized under NMEO-OS and NFSNM to cover all districts of the country in the next 5 years, especially targeting Small and Marginal farmers. The Committee further recommend to establish adequate number of drone training centres across the country over the next three years, to improve application efficiency. A comprehensive Mobile App having latest AI features needs to be developed for real-time weather, pest, and market updates, reaching all farmers over the next four years in all major vernacular languages. The Committee are optimistic that these steps, if taken simultaneously, will drastically reduce crop losses and increase input efficiency and boost yields substantially.

Enhance Farmer Training and Extension Services

12. The Committee note that limited awareness of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) including adoption of latest technological gadgets hinder productivity. Over the past decade, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have trained several lakhs farmers but coverage remains inadequate. The Committee also note that there are many districts in the country which do not have a single KVK.

The Committee urge the Government to explore options wherein farmer promoters train peers, achieving 80% technology adoption and this can be piloted in backward districts of the country with scanty rainfall & productivity below national average for Oilseeds and Pulses. The Committee are of the view that adequate number of para-extension workers need to be trained and deployed by ICAR and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) over the next three- four years to provide extensive doorstep advisories alongside mobile vans for On-Field Demonstrations.

The Committee strongly recommend that all districts in the country should have at least one KVK irrespective of their size and population and the Department should amend/modify the norms accordingly which are acting as a barrier in this regard. The Committee also recommend that training programmes for farmers in Oilseeds and Pulses run by KVKs need to be scaled up immensely targeting 1 Crore new farmers every year over the next five years focusing on GAPs, Climate-resilient varieties & digital tools and Farmer Field Schools need to be conducted annually under NMEO-OS. The Committee further recommend to launch nationwide campaigns in Hindi as well as regional languages intensively on Social Media Platforms such as Facebook, Whatsapp, X *(formerly Twitter)* and Instagram to promote Pulse

consumption, GAPs and success stories of progressive farmers, reaching 11-12 crore farmers by 2028. The Committee are confident that these measures as stated above, if taken together, will increase GAP adoption by more than half, improve yields significantly and enhance farmer awareness immensely.

Need to curb imports on Genetically Modified (GM) foods/seeds

13. The Committee note that GM crops can cross-pollinate with conventional or wild plants, potentially harming biodiversity and creating "super weeds" resistant to herbicides. GM crops may negatively affect beneficial insects, soil health, and other non-target species. The Committee also note that GM foods/seeds being patented, enhance farmer dependency on large corporations and loss of traditional seed sovereignty.

The Committee are of the view that though GM foods are banned in our country but illegal imports and sales exist which needs to be curbed urgently. The Committee are also of the view that our country needs a more robust regulation mechanism to deal with GM foods and to check their proliferation which at present is missing. The Committee feel that human health cannot be compromised in order to promote business. GM foods have potential negative impact on human health,

society and environment. The Committee note that GM foods may cause or induce unexpected allergic responses and genetic modifications can lead to production of new toxins or increase levels of naturally occurring toxins in foods posing health risks. Various Studies suggest possible toxic effects on organs such as Liver, Kidneys and Reproductive system. Some GM foods are engineered with antibiotic resistance markers, raising concerns that consuming these foods might contribute to antibiotic resistance in humans. There is also a theoretical risk that genes from GM foods could transfer to human gut bacteria, potentially causing unforeseen health issues.

The Committee recommend that enforcing mandatory labelling of all foods categorically stating whether they contain GM ingredients or not, will enable consumers to make informed choices and discourage illegal sales. The Committee also recommend to invest in better & upgraded Laboratory infrastructure at Ports and enhance market surveillance measures along with strict enforcement and legal action against violators within a definite time frame, say three months or so to send a strong message and this requires extant rules to be amended accordingly. Staff deputed at Checking points also needs to be trained regularly and farmers & consumers need to be made aware of health risks posed by GM foods. India can effectively ban GM seed imports by

strictly enforcing existing laws *[Environment Protection Act, 1986; Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms Or Cells (Rules, 1989)]* , requiring Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) approval for all seeds , mandating clear declaration and certification at ports, empowering State governments to act against violations, and maintaining rigorous customs/quarantine checks. The Committee are confident that these measures, if robustly implemented, will provide a comprehensive legal and policy framework to prevent unauthorized GM seed imports.

Revision of guidelines/Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DAFW) to grant aid/financial assistance to bring greater accountability and transparency in States Seeds Corporations (SSCs)

14. The Committee note that Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare provide financial assistance to State Seeds Corporations (SSCs) primarily under the Sub Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP) scheme for strengthening infrastructure, promoting seed quality, supporting research and development, and upgrading seed production & storage facilities. The Committee are of the view that the Department need to revisit/amend its guidelines for providing grants/financial assistance to States Seed Corporations (SSCs) to

ensure more transparency, accountability, and reliable supply of high-quality Certified seeds to farmers. Instances of poor quality seeds being distributed have been reported and due to the same, farmers bear the brunt and suffer economic losses for no fault of theirs. Lack of effective demand estimation and poor marketing strategies on the part of SSCs often result in either shortage or wastage of seeds. Delayed response to changes in demand and inefficient utilization of available breeder and foundation seeds cause avoidable losses and production shortfalls.

The Committee feel that insufficient & outdated storage facilities including cold storage & lack of modern processing units lead to seed spoilage, reducing viability and germination rates thereby impacting quality of seeds reaching farmers. Such infrastructure gaps make timely delivery of quality seeds very challenging, especially in remote regions. Weak monitoring systems of SSCs allow entry of "bogus" or counterfeit seeds in the market. There is inadequate follow-up on seed quality at the retail level, and after-sale monitoring is largely negligible or absent.

The Committee also feel that absence of State-specific seed policies, lack of corporate plans, and distribution based on *ad hoc* executive instructions rather than robust frameworks contribute to inconsistency and inefficiency in operations. Opaque financial transactions and absence of clear penal clauses or enforcement,

especially with seed growers and distributing agencies, hamper recovery from defaults and non-compliance. Marketing subsidies and support often do not reach the intended farmer beneficiaries, and benefits are retained or misallocated by corporations.

The Committee feel that long term policies with clear targets for production, marketing and distribution needs to be developed. The Committee urge the Department to guide States Seed Corporations to adopt robust testing and certification protocols, including advanced laboratory infrastructure and digital tracking from production to sales points, to ensure authenticity and traceability of seeds on the lines of SATHI portal before providing financial assistance within a given time frame, say within the next two years. The Committee are of the view that the Department should facilitate State Seed Corporations to set up a concrete and well publicised set up for grievance redressal outcomes. The role, responsibilities and performance metrics for all Executives and Staff need to be clearly defined and implemented. Detailed and context-specific Seed policies pursued by SSCs that provide a regulatory roadmap for Corporation activities, innovation, and stakeholder engagement needs to be formulated and implemented.

The Committee recommend the Department to make the features of SATHI portal an integral part of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

for providing financial assistance/ grant to SSCs to enhance accountability and transparency in the system. The Committee also recommend that annual, independent financial and performance audits of SSCs, which receive grant or financial assistance by Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare/Govt of India, needs to be done by recognized third-party agencies for evaluation of seed quality, service delivery, and beneficiary satisfaction and these audit findings need to be published for public scrutiny to foster accountability. The Department needs to ensure that formal and effective whistleblower mechanisms need to be established within States Seed Corporations as part of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for providing grants/financial assistance, thereby ensuring protection for those reporting malpractices or corruption.

The Committee are confident that prioritizing these reforms/measures as listed herein above, will enable States Seeds Corporations usher in a new version of States Seeds Corporation 2.0, align them with modern governance standards, build trust among farmers, and enhance the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the Seed sector.

Reforms in Coconut Development Board

15. The Committee are of the view that though Coconut Development Board (CDB) has made significant progress, particularly in production, there is a need for a more integrated approach to development, marketing, and value addition. Strengthening the Organizational setup, staffing along with revising outdated cost norms and introducing new schemes, will enhance the Board's effectiveness in promoting the coconut industry.

The Committee recommend establishing a comprehensive framework for the adoption of Organic Coconut farming practices which would also include a structured pathway for organic certification to open new avenues in domestic and international markets for organic coconut products. The Committee also recommend of launching an export incentive scheme backed by market research and trade analysis to enhance the competitiveness of Indian coconut products in global markets. This would involve collaboration with international agricultural and export bodies to meet the latest market standards and consumer preferences, particularly in value-added coconut products.

The Committee recommend that autonomous status of the Coconut Development Board (CDB) should be upgraded by bringing its administrative and budgetary control directly under the Ministry, rather

than the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). This shift would enable a broader coverage and a more comprehensive approach in fulfilling the Board's mandated activities. Bringing together institutes working on Coconut and associated crops such as Arecanut, Spices, Cocoa, and Cashew including Coir Board under a single umbrella would significantly enhance grassroots-level implementation. The Committee also recommend that these institutions should be overseen by a technical expert within the Ministry, preferably the Horticulture Commissioner.

Empower Women Farmers and Youth in Oilseed and Pulse Cultivation

16. The Committee are of the view that women contribute around significantly to Oilseeds and Pulse cultivation but face limited access to inputs and training. The Committee also feel that Youth engagement is critical for modernizing agriculture.

The Committee feel that gender budgeting may be integrated in NMEO-OS and NFSNM, ensuring that at least 40% of funds support women's empowerment and accordingly sufficient number of women extension workers each year, may be trained over the next five years. The Committee urge the Government to increase female farmer incomes through targeted training and accordingly pilot similar initiatives in

districts of the country which have the highest density of women farmers.

The Committee recommend that 40% of NMEO-OS and NFSNM benefits (seeds, training, subsidies) need to be reserved for women farmers and to ensure that women led FPOs are be established in each district across the country over the next five years, by 2030. The Department may offer an initial grant of Rs. 20 lacs per FPO for setting up processing units in Oilseeds and Pulses. The Committee also recommend to launch a "Young Agripreneur Program" to train rural youths in Precision Agriculture, Drone operations, and Agribusiness over the next three years and accordingly, provide startup loans to these trained youths under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). The Committee are confident that these steps if taken simultaneously, will not only increase engagement of women and youth substantially but will also boost household incomes.

Encourage blending of Rice Bran Oil with other cooking Oils and enhance efficiency in the Solvent Extraction Industry

17. The Committee are of the view that there is immense potential in rice bran oil which remains to be tapped. It can become a game changer in the domestic edible oil industry with supportive regulations and

proper infrastructure, especially if blended properly with other popular cooking oils.

The Committee recommend that the Government should explore options and set standards by advocating for the Codex Alimentarius standard for Rice Bran oil, collaborating with organizations like the International Association of Rice Bran Oil (IARBO), facilitating its large-scale utilization. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should support fortified Rice Bran Oil through its policy initiatives and advocate for its inclusion in dietary guidelines and international trade agreements, while fostering domestic production and reducing import dependence.

The Committee note solvent extraction industry, while rapidly expanding, faces several persistent challenges that limit its potential impact on domestic edible oil production, such as low capacity utilization, use of outdated technologies etc., which result in the fact that many plants operate at around 30% of their total capacity. The current spread of solvent extraction plants often does not align with the location of raw material sources, causing logistical inefficiencies and underutilization.

The Committee recommend that regional balancing of plant location & raw materials supply need to be promoted to optimize

operational utilization. The existing plants need to be modernized immediately with emphasis on usage of green extraction technologies to adhere to environmental sustainability goals and most importantly implement latest AI based technologies for data driven management and monitoring to boost operational standards and match global norms. The Committee are confident that by enacting these steps as listed above, the solvent extraction industry can transform itself and play a more vital role in the domestic as well as international arena.

Implementation Framework

18. The Committee strongly recommend that in pursuance of the recommendations listed herein above, a National Task Force on Oilseeds and Pulses, chaired by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare may be established, to monitor progress of different schemes on real time basis and coordinate with States, ICAR, and Private sector. A digital dashboard equipped with latest AI features & linked to SATHI, Krishi Mapper, and Agri Stack may be used for real-time tracking of production, procurement, and farmer benefits. The Committee also recommend that annual third-party audits by institutions like IIMs may be conducted regularly to assess impact of ongoing Schemes and accordingly, refine strategies to improve performance.

The Committee are confident that by implementing these elaborated recommendations, India can achieve self-sufficiency in Oilseeds and Pulses by 2030, reduce import dependence, enhance farmer incomes significantly, and ensure sustainable food security for its 1.4 billion population. These measures align with global best practices and leverage India's agricultural potential to build a resilient, inclusive, and modern farming ecosystem.

New Delhi;
24 March, 2026
03 Chaitra, 1948 (Saka)

Charanjit Singh Channi
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Food Processing

Annexure-I

Data on imports and exports

(Imports & Exports in Lakh Tonnes; Amount in Rs. Crore)

S. No	Crop	2014-15				2015-16				2016-17			
		I	IE	E	ER	I	IE	E	ER	I	IE	E	ER
Primary Sources													
1	Groundnut	0.0003	1.9000	0.1893	164.4087	0.0004	1.1700	0.0651	61.5646	0.0002	0.7300	0.1110	119.0825
2	Castor	0.0000	0.0000	0.0008	0.9766	0.0000	0.0000	0.0021	2.5017	0.0000	0.0000	0.0015	1.7154
3	Sesamum	0.0290	25.4900	0.0305	47.2512	0.0044	4.8600	0.0281	49.7261	0.0089	7.3200	0.0458	68.2343
4	Niger												
5	Soybean	23.1705	12907.8500	0.0034	2.8305	39.6403	19419.5100	0.0142	10.9318	34.6448	18704.1000	0.0021	1.7475
6	Sunflower	17.1255	9556.8300	0.0160	13.8498	14.8608	8324.0900	0.0272	23.5233	17.2795	9792.4200	0.0234	21.4676
7	Safflower	0.0980	104.8700	0.0069	9.1496	0.0693	80.8200	0.0013	1.7238	0.2405	200.8200	0.0011	2.1355
8	Rapeseed & Mustard	3.0660	1711.8100	0.0303	29.0429	3.0919	1675.1200	0.0242	34.1679	4.1464	2315.7600	0.0251	34.0678
9	Linseed	0.0002	0.1800	0.0005	0.6427	0.0112	6.5900	0.0006	1.0598	0.0552	34.7200	0.0007	0.9671
Total S# 1-9		43.4895	24308.9300	0.2777	268.1520	57.6783	29512.1600	0.1628	185.1990	56.3755	31055.8700	0.2107	249.4177

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I = Imports
IE = Import Expenditure
E = Exports
ER = Export Revenue

Secondary Sources													
10	Oil Palm	81.6452	38894.5000	0.0017	1.0600	96.8365	37798.5000	0.0014	1.0800	82.9875	41088.8800	0.0016	1.1100
11	Coconut	0.0967	80.1900	0.0722	146.5700	0.0517	41.4700	0.0681	139.9600	0.0001	0.3700	0.3350	380.2600
12	Cotton seed	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0500	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0243
13	Rice Bran												
14	Corn Oil	0.0000	0.0300	0.0000	0.0007	0.0016	0.5700	0.0010	1.7796	0.0000	0.0000	0.0006	1.4605
15	TBO	2.1305	1637.4200	0.1012	168.1990	1.9346	1384.7800	0.1517	206.2531	0.8409	939.9400	0.1456	184.6605
Total S# 10-15		83.8724	40612.1400	0.1751	315.8797	98.8244	39225.3200	0.2222	349.0727	83.8285	42029.1900	0.4828	567.5153
Grand Total S# 1-15		127.3619	64921.0700	0.4528	584.0317	156.5027	68737.4800	0.3850	534.2717	140.2040	73085.0600	0.6935	816.9330

S. No	Crop	2017-18				2018-19				2019-20			
		I	IE	E	ER	I	IE	E	ER	I	IE	E	ER
1	Groundnut	0.0002	0.5300	0.1033	88.6575	0.0004	2.3600	0.1575	131.1845	0.0002	3.3100	0.3843	395.6362
2	Castor	0.0000	0.0000	0.0008	1.3869	0.0000	0.0000	0.0014	2.1079	0.0000	1.4100	0.0183	22.6430
3	Sesamum	0.0014	4.2800	0.0455	80.3930	0.0006	2.3400	0.0499	106.8743	0.0211	30.9900	0.0562	136.7154
4	Niger												

5	Soybean	31.5228	16490.4700	0.0122	9.6588	31.8837	16539.7900	0.0425	38.2026	33.1321	17316.8100	0.1032	91.3604
6	Sunflower	22.3887	11751.2200	0.0254	21.6397	25.7997	13657.2500	0.0367	30.0878	25.0029	13419.6400	0.0255	22.9487
7	Safflower	0.1345	106.4600	0.0009	1.6155	0.0075	5.3900	0.0013	2.5341	0.0411	34.0000	0.0139	14.0516
8	Rapeseed & Mustard	3.0083	1650.0400	0.0336	44.5088	1.5936	857.0400	0.0397	51.5488	0.5443	338.7800	0.0405	52.0650
9	Linseed	0.0501	28.2400	0.0005	0.7788	0.0084	4.8600	0.0004	1.1689	0.0152	11.1800	0.0008	1.4309
Total S# 1-9		57.1060	30031.2400	0.2222	248.6390	59.2939	31069.0300	0.3294	363.7089	58.7569	31156.1200	0.6427	736.8512
Secondary Sources													
10	Oil Palm	95.2285	43656.0200	0.0017	1.7900	89.3686	36632.9900	0.0012	0.8500	85.9130	36023.6100	0.0012	0.9800
11	Coconut	0.0057	6.3000	0.0732	143.1600	0.0047	3.3400	0.0681	136.7200	0.0245	14.0000	0.0787	141.7000
12	Cotton seed	0.0000	0.0000	0.0002	0.2131	0.0000	0.0000	0.0001	0.1378	0.0287	20.0200	0.0000	0.0161
13	Rice Bran												
14	Corn Oil	0.0001	0.1700	0.0000	0.1851	0.0001	0.3200	0.0001	0.1879	0.0015	1.3500	0.0000	0.0030
15	TBO	1.3194	1319.2600	0.1586	202.4808	1.5468	1315.3600	0.2038	317.1464	2.5433	1555.0800	0.2621	551.7526
Total S# 10-15		96.5537	44981.7500	0.2337	347.8290	90.9202	37952.0100	0.2733	455.0421	88.5110	37614.0600	0.3420	694.4517
Grand Total S# 1-15		153.6597	75012.9900	0.4559	596.4680	150.2141	69021.0400	0.6027	818.7510	147.2679	68770.1800	0.9847	1431.3029

S. No	Crop	2020-21				2021-22				2022-23			
		I	IE	E	ER	I	IE	E	ER	I	IE	E	ER
1	Groundnut	0.0004	1.2300	2.4178	3397.3830	0.0024	4.0000	0.2052	297.0262	0.0003	1.1200	1.2370	1967.1047
2	Castor	0.0000	3.1200	0.0017	6.2060	0.0000	0.0000	0.0015	2.5234	0.0000	0.0000	0.0019	4.2227
3	Sesamum	0.0067	8.8700	0.0873	214.1074	0.0012	1.9300	0.0724	174.3730	0.0011	4.4400		
4	Niger												
5	Soybean	36.4021	23146.5600	0.1399	143.9861	38.9099	41267.8300	0.1010	156.3589	38.5114	47250.1200	0.1533	234.0444
6	Sunflower	21.8391	14668.2600	0.0342	33.6810	20.6967	21796.5200	0.0804	91.4158	20.0709	25250.2200	0.0533	107.1682
7	Safflower	0.0001	0.2800	0.0084	6.9067	0.0001	0.5500	0.0009	1.9012	0.0002	0.4700	0.0015	3.4128
8	Rapeseed & Mustard	0.4272	272.3300	0.0752	106.9432	0.5535	563.3400	0.0603	115.5861	0.0261	41.3800	0.0904	172.3603
9	Linseed	0.0038	3.3500	0.0013	2.7293	0.0063	9.0200	0.0024	4.3232	0.0075	12.7700	0.0016	3.1737
Total S# 1-9		58.6794	38104.0000	2.7658	3911.9427	60.1701	63643.1900	0.5241	843.5078	58.6175	72560.5200	1.5390	2491.4868
Secondary Sources													
10	Oil Palm	74.9219	42568.4300	0.0015	1.8000	80.5073	75312.3600	0.1455	142.4300	97.0682	92545.5300	0.0142	18.7100
11	Coconut	0.0071	5.6500	0.1227	255.8900	0.0023	3.9300	0.2076	429.8500	0.0009	2.0200	0.2339	453.4000
12	Cotton seed	0.0109	8.6400	0.0002	2.1772	0.0790	101.5800	0.0014	4.5619	0.0348	50.5500	0.0010	2.3270

13	**Rice Bran**												
14	**Corn Oil**	**0.0001**	**0.1400**	**0.0007**	**0.6497**	**0.0001**	**0.3300**	**0.0000**	**0.1271**	**0.0016**	**1.8300**	**0.0003**	**0.8804**
15	**TBO**	**2.5399**	**2098.7200**	**0.2420**	**545.4265**	**2.7201**	**3260.5800**	**0.1976**	**486.2113**	**2.0842**	**2511.0900**	**0.2592**	**665.7241**
Total S# 10-15		**77.4799**	**44681.5800**	**0.3671**	**805.9434**	**83.3088**	**78678.7800**	**0.5521**	**1063.1803**	**99.1897**	**95111.0200**	**0.5086**	**1141.0415**
Grand Total S# 1-15		**136.1593**	**82785.5800**	**3.1329**	**4717.8861**	**143.4789**	**142321.9700**	**1.0762**	**1906.6881**	**157.8072**	**167671.5400**	**2.0476**	**3632.5283**

Annexure-II

MSP of Oilseeds declared by CACP

S. No.	Details of edible oils	Cost of cultivation / MSP	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Palm#	Cost of cultivation as per CACP	Rs. 125186 /Hectare											
		MSP declared (Rs. per tonne of FFB)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10516	13346	13652	14489
2	Soybean	Cost of cultivation as per CACP	1692	1729	1770	1852	2121	2266	2473	2587	2633	2805	3029	3261
		MSP declared	2560	2560	2600	2775	3050	3399	3710	3880	3950	4300	4600	4892
3	Sunflower	Cost of cultivation as per CACP	3000	3129	3282	3479	3481	3592	3767	3921	4010	4113	4505	4853
		MSP declared	3700	3750	3800	3950	4100	5388	5650	5885	6015	6400	6760	7280
4	Other major oils imported specify **(R&M)**	Cost of cultivation as per CACP	1307	1504	1702	1871	2123	2212	2323	2415	2523	2670	2855	3011
		MSP declared	3050	3100	3350	3700	4000	4200	4425	4650	5050	5450	5650	5950
5	Other major oils imported	Cost of cultivation as per CACP	2720	3232	3314	3371	3159	3260	3394	3515	3699	3873	4251	4522

	specify (**Groundnut**)	MSP declared	4000	4000	4030	4220	4450	4890	5090	5275	5550	5850	6377	6783
6	Other major oils imported specify (**Sesamum)**	Cost of cultivation as per CACP	2919	3765	4132	4188	4067	4166	4322	4570	4871	5220	5755	6178
		MSP declared	4500	4600	4700	5000	5300	6249	6485	6855	7307	7830	8635	9267
7	Other major oils imported specify (**Safflower)**	Cost of cultivation as per CACP	2558	3025	3057	3049	3125	3294	3470	3551	3627	3765	3807	3960
		MSP declared	3000	3050	3300	3700	4100	4945	5215	5327	5441	5650	5800	5940
8	Other major oils imported specify (**Nigerseed)**	Cost of cultivation as per CACP	2279	3084	3146	3366	3912	3918	3960	4462	4620	4858	5156	5811
		MSP declared	3500	3600	3650	3825	4050	5877	5940	6695	6930	7287	7734	8717

In Oil Palm, Viability Price is declared by GoI for each Oil Palm Year (1st November to 31st October)

Annexure-III

State-wise list of 74 Seed Hub Centres for Oilseeds

S. No.	States	No. of Centres (Seed Hubs - Oilseeds)
1	Andhra Pradesh	5
2	Assam	1
3	Bihar	3
4	Chhattisgarh	6
5	Gujarat	3
6	Haryana	2
7	Jharkhand	1
8	Karnataka	5
9	Madhya Pradesh	10
10	Maharashtra	9
11	Odisha	3
12	Punjab	1
13	Rajasthan	6
14	Tamil Nadu	2
15	Telangana	5
16	Uttar Pradesh	7
17	West Bengal	5
	Total	**74**

Annexure-IV

State-wise list of 150 Seed Hub Centres for Pulses

S. No.	States	No. of Centres (Seed Hubs - –ulses)
1	Andhra Pradesh	6
2	Assam	6
3	Bihar	10
4	Chhattisgarh	7
5	Gujarat	8
6	Haryana	3
7	Himachal Pradesh	1
8	Jharkhand	5
9	Jammu & Kashmir	2
10	Karnataka	11
11	Kerala	1
12	Madhya Pradesh	16
13	Maharashtra	11
14	Manipur	2
15	Nagaland	1
16	Odisha	9
17	Punjab	1
18	Rajasthan	15
19	Tamil Nadu	8
20	Telangana	5
21	Tripura	1
22	Uttar Pradesh	14
23	Uttarakhand	2
24	West Bengal	5
	Total	**150**

APPENDIX-I

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2024-25)

Minutes of the Fifteenth Sitting of the Committee

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 07th January, 2025 from 1405 hrs. to 1550 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Charanjit Singh Channi – Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Umeshbhai Babubhai Patel
3. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
4. Shri Rajpalsinh Mahendrasinh Jadav
5. Md.Abu Taher Khan
6. Shri Rahul Singh Lodhi
7. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
8. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
9. Shri Dharambir Singh
10. Shri Sudhakar Singh
11. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor
12. Shri Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure

Rajya Sabha

13. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
14. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
15. Shri S.Kalyanasundaram
16. Shri Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav Patil
17. Shri Madan Rathore
18. Shri Ramji Lal Suman
19. Shri P.P. Suneer

SECRETARIAT

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

LIST OF WITNESSES

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE)

S. No.	Name of the Representatives	Designation
1	Shri Devesh Chaturvedi	Secretary
2	Ms. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi	Additional Secretary
3	Shri Sanjiv Narain Mathur	Additional Secretary & FA
4	Shri Praveen Kumar Singh	Agriculture Commissioner
5	Shri Tilak Raj Sharma	DDG(Crops Science), ICAR
6	Shri Purna Chandra Kishan	JS(Oilseeds)
7	Shri D K Yadava	ADG(Seeds), ICAR
8	Shri Rabindra Prasad	Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) to the Sitting convened for Briefing by the representatives of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) on the Subject- "Production and Availability of Oilseeds and Pulses in the Country". Thereafter, the Hon'ble Chairperson apprised them of the provisions of the Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding confidentiality of the proceedings.

3. After the witnesses introduced themselves, Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Additional Secretary of the Department made a Power-point Presentation and briefed the Committee on the Subject- "Production and Availability of Oilseeds and Pulses in the Country". The Power point presentation (PPT) covered the following main points :-

Achievement under Oilseeds

(i) Surge in Oilseeds Production;

(ii) Increasing Productivity of Oilseeds;

(iii) Challenges – Rising consumption outpacing production using imports of Oilseeds putting burden on foreign exchange;

(iv) Strategy of National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)- Oilseeds Mission (OS)- to strive towards Aatmanirbharta in Edible Oils;

(v) Key activities/Interventions in NMEO-OS;

(vi) Addressing the yield gap – revamped demonstrations;

(vii) Value Chain Clusters & Post-Harvest Value Chain Support;

(viii) Sub Mission on Minor Vegetable Oils;

(ix) Achieving self-sufficiency in Pulses;

(x) Surge in Pulses Area & Production in India;

(xi) Surge in Pulses Productivity;

(xii) Challenges in production of Pulses;

(xiii) Strategy of Pulses to strive towards Atmanirbharta;

(xiv) Way forward.

4. The Chairperson and the Members of the Committee raised *inter alia* several issues/points which are briefly mentioned herein as under :-

(i) Rising imports of Oilseeds impacting State exchequer;

(ii) Need to attain Atmanirbharta or self sufficiency in Oilseeds in view of increasing population and Schemes to be devised accordingly (portance of training of Farmers in latest techniques and similar set of farmers should not be trained time and again;

(iii) Need to explore ways to motivate farmers to produce more Oilseeds/Pulses including enhancing duties being levied on imports of Oilseeds/Pulses;

(iv) New varieties of Pulses need to be developed which are suited for different climatic conditions;

(v) Issues related to import of Palm Oil and its side effects;

(vi) Interference of Private Sector in research of new varieties of crops;

(vii) Need to fix Maximum Sale Price of Seeds to protect farmers;

(viii) Laws needed to lessen import of oils considered bad for health;

(ix) Ensuring standard Quality of seeds to be distributed to farmers;

(x) Need to strengthen Mandis and their infrastructure;

(xi) Emphasis needs to be given on Conservation of good quality of seeds;

(xii) Involvement of FPOs in seed production in the country.

5. The Representatives of the Department responded to most of the queries raised by the Members. The Chairperson, thereafter, thanked the witnesses for sharing valuable information with the Committee on the Subject and directed them to furnish the requisite information in writing on the points/items, which were not readily available with them to the Secretariat by **17h January, 2025,** positively.

The Committee then adjourned.

****

APPENDIX-II

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

*****

The Committee sat on Friday, the 20th June, 2025, from 1130 hrs. to 1345 hrs. in Committee Room `D' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Charanjit Singh Channi – Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai
3. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
4. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
5. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
6. Shri Dharambir Singh
7. Shri Sudhakar Singh
8. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor

Rajya Sabha

9. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
10. Shri S. Kalyanasundaram
11 Shri Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav Patil
12. Shri Madan Rathore
13. Shri Ramji Lal Suman

Secretariat

1.	Shri Maheshwar	-	Director
2.	Shri Prem Ranjan	-	Deputy Secretary
3.	Shri Anil Kumar Sanwaria	-	Deputy Secretary
4.	Shri Sanjeev Kumar	-	Under Secretary

List of Witnesses

Representatives of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare- Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) and Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE)

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi	Secretary, DA&FW
2.	Dr. M.L. Jat	Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR
3	Shri Purna Chandra Kishan	Joint Secretary
4.	Mrs. F.D. Initha	Joint Secretary, Crops
5.	Shri Sanjay Kumar Aggarwal	Joint Secretary
6.	Dr. D.K. Yadava	DDG(Crops Science), ICAR
7.	Dr. Sanjeev Gupta	ADG(O&P)
8.	Dr. S.K. Dwivedi	Director, Oilseeds
9.	Shri Vijay Singh	Director, Crops

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the Representatives of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare [Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) and Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE)] to the Sitting convened for taking oral evidence of the said representatives on the Subject "Production and Availability of Oilseeds and Pulses in the Country". Thereafter, the Hon'ble Chairperson apprised them of the provisions of Direction 55 (1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, regarding confidentiality of the proceedings.

3. After the witnesses introduced themselves, Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Additional Secretary (DA&FW) made a Power Point Presentation on the Subject- "Production and Availability of Oilseeds and Pulses in the Country" before the Committee. The Power Point Presentation (PPT) covered the following main points-

(i) Achievements under Pulses;
(ii) Interventions for Pulses;
(iii) Challenges in Pulses;
(iv) National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM);
(v) Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses announced in 2025;
(vi) Strategy of Pulses to Strive towards Aatmanirbharta;
(vii) Overview of Edible Oil Sector;
(viii) Major Oilseeds Scenario 2024-25;
(ix) Production of Edible Oils;
(x) Area Production & Yield (APY)- Trends of Oilseeds in India;
(xi) Achievements under Oilseeds-Surge in Oilseeds Production;

(xii) Increasing Productivity of Oilseeds except Niger;
(xiii) Brief Overview of National Mission on Edible Oils- Oilseeds (NMEO-OS);
(xiv) Objectives of the Mission- Aatmanirbharta in Oilseeds;
(xv) Strategy of NMEO-OS Mission;
(xvi) Role of Agencies;
(xvii) Interventions in NMEO-OS;
(xviii) Progress of the Mission;
(xix) Special Efforts by States;
(xx) Nationwide Campaign on "Optimal Utilisation of Edible Oils & Its Health Benefits;
(xxi) Convergence with National Beekeeping and Honey Mission(NBHM) Scheme.
(xxii) Important Activities under Flexi Funds and Details of Seed Hubs.

4. Thereafter, the Chairperson and Members of the Committee raised several issues/ points, as briefly mentioned below and sought clarifications/ information from the Department thereon:

(i) Issues related to Minimum Support Price (MSP) in Oilseeds and Pulses and lack of implementation at ground level/Absence of procurement by Government agencies in various parts of the country;

(ii) Need for Regulatory Body in Agriculture sector for effective monitoring and oversight as already existing in other Sectors such as Petroleum, Education etc.;

(iii) Urgent requirement for New Seeds Bill / Act;

(iv) Need to incentivize farmers to grow Oilseeds & Pulses and wean them away from Rice and Wheat in such a graded manner so that the country does not face any challenges on the fronts of food and nutritional security;

(v) Need to fix upper price ceiling of Seeds in order to protect farmers from exorbitant pricing and extraordinary hike of input costs;

(vi) Issues related to Seed Hubs and lack of coordination from State Governments;

(vii) Role of Seeds Corporations of States and steps required to be taken to improve their efficacy;

(viii) Need to enhance inspection/surveillance and upgrade all relevant measures to stop distribution & sale of fake/spurious seeds;

(ix) Need to timely distribute Quality and certified seeds to Farmers;

(x) Shortage of Pulses in the Country;

(xi) Issues in Seed Replacement and need to ensure transparency and accountability in the system to check loopholes;

(xii) Need for data collection on per acre income of farmers growing Oilseeds and Rice and accordingly take steps to ensure growth of Oilseeds;

(xiii) Issues related to Genetically Modified seeds and need to ensure GM free certification of products be it Oilseeds, Pulses or Grains.

5. The Representatives of the Department responded to most of the queries raised by the Members. The Chairperson, thereafter, thanked the witnesses for sharing valuable information with the Committee on the Subject and directed them to furnish the requisite information in writing on the points/items, which were not readily available with them to the Secretariat by **30th June, 2025,** positively.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX-III

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2025-26)

*****

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 20th November, 2025, from 1430 hours to 1445 hours in Committee Room '1', First Floor, Block-A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe (EPHA), New Delhi.

PRESENT

CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI - CHAIRPERSON

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai
3. Shri Rajpalsinh Mahendrasinh Jadav
4. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
5. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
6. Shri Dharambir Singh
7. Shri Dushyant Singh
8. Shri Sudhakar Singh
9. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

Rajya Sabha

10. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
11. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
12 Shri Madan Rathore
13. Shri Ramji Lal Suman
14. Shri P. P. Suneer

Secretariat

1.	Shri Maheshwar	-	Director
2.	Shri Prem Ranjan	-	Deputy Secretary
3.	Shri Fauzi Badruddin	-	Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took up of the draft Reports on the subjects- (i) 'Production and Availability of Oilseeds and Pulses in the Country' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare); and (ii) 'Research for Developing Water Efficient Variety of Seeds to Save Ground Water' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) for consideration.

3. A Member of the Committee raised some objections/suggested some modifications to the recommendations contained in the draft Reports. Consequently, the Chairperson decided to keep the adoption of the draft Reports on hold and constitute a Sub-Committee to finalize the draft reports.

The Committee then adjourned.

Appendix-IV

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2025-26)

The Committee sat on Monday, the 23rd March, 2026 from 1035 hrs. to 1118 hrs. in Committee Room No. 2, First Floor, Block-A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe (EPHA), New Delhi.

Present

Shri Charanjit Singh Channi – Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
3. Shri Kuldeep Indora
4. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
5. Shri Dushyant Singh
6. Shri Sudhakar Singh

Rajya Sabha

7. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
8. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
9. Shri H. D. Devegowda
10. Shri Madan Rathore

Secretariat

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

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration and adoption of the following Draft Subject Reports and Draft Action Taken Reports:

(i) Report on the Subject "Production and Availability of Oilseeds and Pulses in the Country" pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare);

*(ii) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx;

*(iii) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx;

*(iv) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx;

*(v) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx;

*(vi) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx;

3. The Committee, thereafter adopted the draft Reports mentioned at Para 2 (i) with modifications/amendments as listed at **Annexure A.**

*4. xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx;

5. The Committee decided to consider the examination of the subject "Review of India's Sugar Structure - Production, Impact of Importation of Sugar from China, Ethanol Issues and Policy Reforms" currently under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) during 2025-26.

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

The Committee then adjourned.

**Matter not related to this report.*

Annexure-A

During the Sitting held on 23.03.2026, the Members made the following suggestions to be incorporated into the Draft Report on "Production and Availability of Oilseeds and Pulses in the Country"

Rec No.	Para/ page	Amendments Incorporated
1	Third para, pg. 37	Commissioner-Oilseeds may be replaced with **Mission Head-Oilseeds**
13	Third para, pg. 60	In order to promote ease of doing business may be replaced with **in order to promote business**.