

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4547
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006
RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN AGRICULTURE
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has carried out research activities in various States with a view to increase agricultural production;
- (b) if so, the research activities undertaken in various parts of the country particularly in Rajasthan during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the recommendations of ICAR for increasing agricultural production in Rajasthan; and
- (d) the follow-up action initiated by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The ICAR has carried out research activities to increase agricultural production in various states including Rajasthan, through improvement of crop, animal and fish genetic resources, natural resource management, disease diagnostics and management in crops, livestock and fisheries, development and utilization of improved farm machinery, post harvest technology and human resource development. These activities are undertaken at various ICAR research institutes and their centres and the state agricultural universities as ongoing programmes and ad-hoc projects of national and regional priorities. For research extension, there are 510 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) in the country out of which 32 are in Rajasthan, one in each district. During the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06) in Rajasthan, these KVKs have taken up 124 technologies for on-farm trial to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems; organized 12688 front-line demonstrations to establish its production potential on the farmers' fields; conducted 6077 training programmes with the participation of 1.09 lakh farmers and 13041 extension personnel. The KVKs produced 8542 q of seeds and 8.63 lakh planting materials for making it available to the farmers. Similar activities are being pursued during the current year (2006-07) as well.

(c) & (d): ICAR Regional Committee No.VI comprising the States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Union Territory of Dadra, Nagar and Haveli and Daman and Diu in its Meeting in September, 2005 with participation of Senior Officials of ICAR, SAUs and State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, made 24 recommendations for agricultural development in Rajasthan. These relate to groundwater recharge, input use efficiency, heavy metals accumulation in soil and ground water, seed production unit, salt-tolerant pulses, seed multiplication of forage crops, combating biotic stresses through microbes, integrated pest management, value addition of potential commodities, assessment of animal potential, feed and fodder management, fisheries in the river Yamuna, fish seed certification, demonstrations on multiple uses of water, restructuring of KVKs, Faculty positions and subjects in agricultural universities, certification standards for organic farming, implementation of Model Act in SAUs, basic and strategic research, generation of information on resource potential and strengthening of Veterinary Clinics/Centres. Follow-up action involving concerned departments has been initiated which will be reviewed in Mid-term Appraisal Meeting after one year and the next Regional Committee Meeting.