

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:833
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006
PACT WITH ICRISAT FOR DRY LAND .
Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) has signed a three year research agreement with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) for farm research in dry land;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether the pact with the ICRISAT will benefit dry land farmers by improving productivity; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have signed an Agreement on 25.5.2006 for ICAR-ICRISAT Partnership research projects (2006-2008). The agreement covers a number of partnership projects. The broad thematic area of these projects are : Genetic resources conservation, evaluation and utilization, Enhancing crop productivity and sustainability under both favourable and dry land stress environments, Improving system productivity and livelihood for fragile and dry environment including socio-economic and policy options, and Strengthening linkage between research and development including training.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The ICAR-ICRISAT partnership projects aims for: Development, evaluation of new and diverse parental lines with build in resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses in sorghum, pearl millet and pigeonpea. Efforts will also be made for development of high yielding varieties of chickpea and groundnut with a special focus for drought tolerance disease/insect resistance traits. The exchange of breeding materials, germplasms and production of nucleus/breeder seed of improved legumes will also be taken up. For improving, the livelihood in the rain fed areas participatory approach in integrated watershed management will be taken up for increasing the productivity. The products and the technology generated with these partnership projects will facilitate enhancing the production and productivity of dry land areas.