

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2160
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006
REHABILITATION ON DRY LAND
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) is making any efforts to step up and to focus rehabilitation activities in dry land areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the dry land farming in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. ICAR is emphasizing upon creation of permanent assets of drought mitigation in the dry land areas through renovation of old tanks/village ponds for storage of rain water and its recycling, development of open grazing lands, creation of seed banks and fodder banks, distribution of improved planting material of fruits and perennial multi purpose trees, use of drought resistant and short duration crop varieties, contingent planning and adoption of integrated farming systems to guarantee food and nutritional security and enhance livelihood generation for the disadvantaged sections of the dry land areas.

(c) The Council is advocating efficient crop planning including agroforestry and biofuel crops, use of short duration drought resistant varieties, intercropping, rain water harvesting for supplementary irrigations, participatory integrated watershed management, micro irrigation, land management including resource conservation technologies (RCTs), integrated nutrient management and short/medium range weather forecasting for optimizing crop productivity of dryland/rainfed regions. Besides, special efforts are being initiated under National Agricultural Innovation project (NAIP) to develop location specific rainfed integrated farming system modules for reducing the risk and increasing the profitability of dryland agriculture in the form of rural livelihoods and value addition chains. A number of developmental schemes like National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), River Valley Project (RVP), Flood Prone River Project (FPR), Integrated Watershed Development Project (IWD), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Swaranajyanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna (SGSY), etc. are also in operation to create livelihood generation in rainfed dryland areas.