

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1662
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005
MOU WITH FRANCE, SRI LANKA, CUBA AND IRAN
Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and three work plans with France, Sri Lanka, Cuba and Iran;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether under international linkages nine projects have been approved/initiated recently; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has signed an MoU with INRA (Institute National de la Recherche Agronomique) & CIRAD (Centre de Cooperation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Development), France on 17.4.2003 for cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research & Education.

ICAR has signed a Work Plan for the biennium 2003-2004 with Sri Lanka Council of Agricultural Research Policy for Scientific and Technical Cooperation on 5.5.2003. The validity of the Work Plan has been extended up to 30th June 2005.

DARE has signed a Work Plan for the biennium 2004-2005 with Cuba for cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and Education on 25.11.2003.

DARE has signed a Work Plan for the biennium 2004-2005 with Iran on 15.12.2003 for cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research & Education.

(c) & (d): Details are given in the Annexure-I attached.

ANNEXURE-I

Under International Linkage, a number of foreign aided research projects were received in this Department and following were approved during Jan., 2004 till date :-

1. Indo-French Collaborative Project on "Soil Carbon Fuel and Bio-diversity conversion" The period of the project is for 3 years and is funded by Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR). The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur is implementing the project. The main objective of the project is to study linkage between two topics concerning global change-

- (i) the need of preserving biodiversity; and
(ii) the effort to mitigate greenhouse gas emission. The Institute will get Rs.25.25 lakh under the project through IFCPAR, New Delhi.

2. Indo-Norwegian Collaborative project "Genetic Improvement of Penaeus Monodon (Tiger Shrimp- through Selective Breeding for Growth and White Spot Disease Resistance". The project is for a period of 4 years and the participating Institutes are Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai

(ii) Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai. From Norwegian side, the participating Institute is the Institute of Aquaculture Research Ltd.(AKVAFORSK), Norway. The objective of the collaboration is to develop fully domesticated tiger shrimp with better growth rate and improved disease resistance and the same is proposed to be met by complementing the knowledge in quantitative genetics and breeding of collaborative; institutes both in India and Norway. The funding by Norwegian agency for Development and Cooperation is to the tune of Rs.83,65,000.

3. An MoU between the Asian Development Bank and the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP) was signed on 17th March, 2004. Under this arrangement NCAP is to act as a Hub Institution for implementing ADB's Technical Assistance (TA) 4066: Policy Research Networking to strengthen Policy Reform, specifically the activities under the thematic cluster 'Agriculture, Food Security, and Rural Development.' The present term of the MoU is for the period upto 28th February, 2005.

4. FAO-IAEA Project on "Studies on Interaction of Fibre degrading microbes and Methanogenic Bacteria in the Ruman for reducing Methogenesis" being implemented by IVRI, Izatnagar. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has approved the above project initially for one year for period upto Dec., 2004. The project is renewable with mutual agreement of both the parties. The contribution of IAEA for the initial year is not to exceed US\$10,000.

5. Project proposal on "Utilization of cotton plant byproduce for value aided products" has been approved for funding by Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). The implementing institute is Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (CIRCOT), Mumbai. The overall objective of the project is to demonstrate, at a pilot level, the technical and commercial feasibility of using cotton stalks as base material for board production addressing issue like collection of base material, pre-cleaning, processing and market survey of the boards. The duration of the project is for 4 years. The cost of the project is US\$2.190 out of which common fund for commodities is US\$0.918 million. 6. Indian Veterinary Research Institute(IVRI), Izatnagar has been selected as a nodal institute to conduct the studies relating to the collaborative project. "Integrated Consortium on Tick and Tick borne Diseases" under the 6th frame work programme of research of European Union". The project is for a period of three years and is being executed by a consortium of 55 institutes including IVRI from 31 countries. The aim of the jointly executed project is to support a research programme on Tick and Tick Borne Diseases. IVRI will be provided Euro 15,840 by European union for implementing the project.

7 Indo-Swiss collaboration in Biotechnology (ISCB) project entitled "Enhancing Genetic Resistance Against Stripe and Leaf Rust Using Molecular Markers in Wheat Adapted to the Moisture Stress Regime". The project is for a period of three years from October 2004 and is being implemented by Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal. Department of Biotechnology, being the nodal Department, has conveyed approval.

8. ICAR-ACIAR Project LWR 2/2002/032 – Integrated Manure Nutrient Management Participatory approach in Soybean/Wheat Cropping System on Vertisols in Madhya Pradesh and Queensland in Australia. The Project is for a period of four years i.e. 1st January, 2004 to 31st December, 2007 at the total cost of A\$ 950, 488. The Project is implemented at Indian Institute Soils Science, Bhopal and the BAIF Research Development Foundation.

9. ICAR-ACIAR Project FIS/2002/001-Developing Aquaculture in degraded Inland Areas in India and Australia. The Project is for a period of three years from 1st January, 2004 to 31st December, 2007 at the total cost of A\$544,041. The Project is implemented at the Rohtak Centre of Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai. 10. Phase-II of the IPGRI-ADB-TFT Project on "Conservation and Use of Native Tropical Fruits Genetic Resources in Asia for Sustainable Livelihoods which is being implemented in ten Countries namely Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. In India this project will be implemented at Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore, Central Institute of Sub-Tropical Horticultural, Lucknow, National Research Centre for Citrus, Nagpur and National Research Centre for Litchi, Muzaffarpur at a total cost of US \$ 2,76,000/-. The Project is for three years. The Project is funded by Asian Development Bank through the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome.

11. The Project entitled "Identification and Promotion of Cassava Clones with higher Nutritional Quality" is being implemented at Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI), Trivandrum at a total cost of US \$ 36,000/- which is being provided by International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Cali, Colombia.