

(in million tonnes)

Year	Projected demand	Estimated production	Shortfall/gap
2009-10	18.29	14.66	3.63
2010-11	19.08	18.24	0.84
2011-12	19.91	17.21*	2.70

*(4th Advance Estimates for 2011-12)

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is having research programmes in different pulse crops at Indian Institute of Pulse Research (IIPR), Kanpur. The research programmes include basic and strategic research related to crop improvement, production and protection technologies in different pulse crops. The research findings, so developed, is validated in relevant agro-ecologies by the All India Coordinated Research Projects on Chickpea, Pigeonpea, MULLaRP (Mungbean, Urdbean, Lentil, Lathyrus, Rajmash, Pea) and a Network Project on Arid Legumes mostly situated in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) to develop location specific varieties and technologies. A total of 120 varieties of different pulse crops comprising chickpea (27), pigeonpea (16), urdbean (17), mungbean (19), field pea (10), lentil (11), rajmash (2), cowpea (7), guar (5), horse gram (3), mothbean (2) and lathyrus (1) have been released during 2007-2012. The developed varieties and matching production technologies are also being demonstrated by the State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras through Frontline Demonstrations.

Improved varieties and recommended agronomic practices developed as a result of the research efforts of National Agricultural Research System has increased yield potential of different pulses crops.

Developed varieties and proven agronomic practices are extended to the pulses farmers under various crop development schemes such as NFSM, A3P, RKVY etc. As a result of implementation of pulses production programmes, productivity of pulses has increased from 598 Kg. per ha. in 2005-06 to 694 Kg. per ha. in 2011-12 (4th Advance Estimates for 2011-12).

Use of Bio-fertilizers

2951. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any action plan to promote the use of Bio-fertilizers among farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to launch an awareness programme amongst farmers to promote the use of Bio-fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Government is already promoting use of bio-fertilizers through a Central Sector Scheme National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) for setting up of new or strengthening of existing bio-fertilizer production units, technology transfer and training etc. To ensure quality of bio-fertilizer - Rhizobium, Azotobacter, Azospirillum, Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria, Potash Mobilising Bacteria, Zinc Solubilising Bacteria and Mycorrhizal bio-fertilisers have been incorporated in Fertilizer Control Order, 1985. Financial assistance is provided as back ended subsidy through NABARD for setting up/strengthening of existing Bio-fertilizers and/or Bio-pesticide Production units, assistance upto 25% of total financial outlay or Rs. 40.00 lakh, whichever is less.

(c) and (d) Awareness creation activities on use of bio-fertilizer is being addressed through training programme seminar and through advisory in package and practices for different crops under organic management. ICAR also imparts training, organizes field level demonstrations etc. to educate farmers on use of bio-fertilizers. During 2006-12, a total 386 demonstrations were conducting on various crops in different States.

**Implementation of Saving-cum-Relief and Fishermen Development
Rebate on HSD oil schemes**

2952. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would dispense with the stringent applicability of the two Centrally Sponsored Plan schemes *i.e.* "Saving-cum Relief" and "Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD oil"; and

(b) if so, whether Government would amend the guidelines in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at the moment to amend the guidelines to revise the eligibility criteria for these schemes.

Drought in wake of erratic monsoon

2953. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many States have declared drought in the wake of erratic monsoon;

(b) the names of the States and the districts thereof; and