

**Development of improved varieties of various crops**

†550. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 93 improved varieties of various crops have been developed in the field of agricultural research during the last eighteen months;

(b) if so, the details of crops and varieties thereof; and

(c) whether the help of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and States' Extension System has been taken to extend these improved varieties to the farmers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. More than 93 improved varieties of various field crops have been developed during the last eighteen months. A total of 245 varieties/hybrids comprising 135 of cereals, 39 of oilseeds, 28 of pulses, 23 of fiber crops, 16 of forage crops and 4 of sugarcane have been released and notified during the last eighteen months.

(c) Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), National Seed Corporation and States' Extension System including State Departments of Agriculture have been involved in creating awareness among farmers and production of foundation/certified/truthful labeled seed of these improved varieties which is being made available to farmers.

**Development of technologies for enhancing agriculture productivity**

551. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently signed MoUs with certain countries in the field of agriculture and allied sectors, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for development of appropriate technologies and farm practices for enhancing agriculture productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. During last five years, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has signed 12 MoUs/Agreements with foreign countries for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sector. Details of these MoUs/Agreements are as under:-

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Country(s)
2011	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh;
2012	Sri Lanka, Australia, Vietnam;
2013	-
2014	Morocco, Vietnam
2015	Mongolia
2016 (till date)	Armenia, Madagascar, Lithuania

The areas for cooperation in these MoUs/Agreements *inter alia* include cooperation in research and development, increasing productivity, post-harvest management, value addition/food processing, plant protection, animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries, enhancing trade and mutual exchange, reciprocal visits of scientists, mutual exchange of technical expertise, exchange of Germ-plasm, transfer of technology, setting up of centers of excellence in different fields to demonstrate new technologies etc.

(b) Government is implementing various schemes for increasing production and productivity of the crops in the country viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM) on rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops (cotton, jute and sugarcane); Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) and Crop Diversification Programme (CDP).

Various technologies such as protected cultivation, integrated pest and nutrient management, quality planting material production through tissue culture, drip irrigation, cold chain development, canopy management, integrated pack houses and reefer vans are being promoted to increase the productivity of horticulture crops in the country through Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

Apart from this, precision farming development centers are also working in different Agricultural Universities for promotion of horticulture technology. Various Centres of Excellence in the areas of fruits and vegetables have been established/approved in different Indian States under the provisions of MoUs signed with Israel, Netherland etc.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 645 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country for assessment and demonstration of technologies/products and its dissemination through extension programmes including training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills.

Frontline demonstrations and on site trainings and field days were organized at the demonstration sites to demonstrate the production potential of the newly released improved crop varieties/production technologies in crops/animal husbandry and other agricultural enterprises.