

Research on traditional agricultural produces

†2578. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to safeguard and promote the traditional agricultural produces in the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to promote research work to improve existing local varieties of agricultural produces and seeds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi is taking various measures to safe guard and promote traditional agricultural produces in the country. NBPGR with the support of its ten regional centres, collects and acquires germplasm from various sources, conserves it in the National Genebank (NGB), characterizes and evaluates it for different traits and provides the trait specific material to breeders to develop varieties for farmers. Presently, NBPGR has conserved 4,38,922 germplasm accessions including traditional varieties and land races in its NGB. As on today 87038 accessions of Landraces/ Traditional Cultivars/Folk varieties of different crops have been conserved in the NGB as per details given below:—

Crop groups	No. of Accessions	Crop groups	No. of Accessions
Cereals	17565	Medicinal and Aromatic plants	885
Millets	16026	Vegetables	5811
Oilseeds	31855	Fruits and Nuts	9
Grain legumes	10423	Spices	941
Forages	1408	Ornamental	16
Fibre	260	Agroforestry	343
Pseudocereals	1496	Grand Total	87,038

(b) NBPGR is nodal Institution and acts in service-mode for effective utilization of PGR including local cultivars and traditional varieties in crop improvement programmes. NBPGR is presently focussing on characterization of ex situ conserved

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

germplasm and detailed evaluation of prioritized crops for enhanced utilization; assessment of impact of on-farm conservation practices on genetic diversity; genome-wide association mapping for identification of novel genes and alleles for enhanced utilization of PGR; identification and deployment of germplasm/landraces/traditional cultivars using climate analog data; validation of trait-specific introduced germplasm for enhanced utilization.

Crop Science Division of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), through its 21 Research Institutes, 03 Bureaux, 02 National Research Centres, 02 Project Directorates, 22 All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) and 10 Network Research Projects in active collaboration with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) is engaged in the development of eco-friendly, improved seed (crop) varieties/hybrids including improvement of existing local varieties, to enhance crop productivity and ensure food and nutritional security in the country.

(c) The conserved traditional varieties at NBPGR, New Delhi are multiplied as per the viability aspects of the seeds and seeds of these varieties are shared with scientists on request. Details of seed multiplication of different crops are given in the Statement (*See below*). These traditional varieties are being used in the breeding programmes for introgression of desirable traits or their per-se improvement.

In addition, under PPV&FR Act, 2001, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority grants IPR to farmers' varieties which are traditionally cultivated and evolved by the farmers in the fields which also includes wild relatives, land races of crops about which farmers possess common knowledge. So far 1587 registration certificates have been issued to farmers' varieties. In order to support, reward and recognise farmers, communities of farmers particularly tribal, rural communities engaged in conservation, improvement and preservation of genetic resources of economic plants and other wild relatives, the PPV&FR Authority confers annually Plant Genome Saviour Awards which have been established under the provision of clause (iii) of sub section (1) of section 39 of PP&FR Act, 2001 (53 of 2001). There shall be a maximum of 05 Plant Genome Saviour Award (₹ 10 Lakhs to each of the farming communities), 10 Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Rewards (₹ 1.5 Lakhs to each farmer) and 20 Plant Genome Saviour Farmers Recognition (₹ 1 Lakhs to each farmer). So far 43 Plant Genome Saviour Rewards, 35 Plant Genome Saviour Farmers Recognitions, 25 Plant Genome Community awards in addition to 31 certificates, totalling to 134 have been conferred to Farmer (s)/Farming Community.

Traditional varieties and landraces accessions regenerated/multiplied at NBPGR

Crop group	Traditional varieties	Landraces	Total
Cereals	719	2784	3503
Millets	34	4032	4066
Oilseeds	5	6760	6765
Grain legumes	40	2454	2494
Fibre	52	37	89
Forages	1	12	13
Pseudocereals	9	56	65
Medicinal and Aromatic plants	7	72	79
Vegetables	52	1588	1640
Fruits and Nuts	-	2	2
Spices, condiments and flavour	92	412	504
Agroforestry	-	2	2
GRAND TOTAL	1011	18211	19222

Procurement of soyabean, groundnut, pulses and oil seeds

2579. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given the target for procurement of soyabean, groundnut, pulses and oil seeds for the Kharif season this year, if so, the minimum support price for these crops; and

(b) the expected production, and out of that, how much quantity of these crops has been procured by National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No target had been given for procurement of pulses and oilseeds for the Kharif season this year, under the present procurement mechanism of Price Support Scheme (PSS). Under PSS, procurement of oilseeds and pulses is undertaken based on the request of State Government/Union Territory. The Minimum Support Price (MSP), the expected production in the States which requested for procurement as per prescribed norms and quantity procured by National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) during the Kharif 2018-19 season till 31st December, 2018 is given in the Statement.