

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2904

ANSWERED ON- 20/12/2024

**DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF CLIMATE-RESILIENT
AND BIOFORTIFIED CROP VARIETIES**

2904. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient, and biofortified varieties of crops, including both field and horticultural crops;
- (b) the manner in which these new crop varieties will be made accessible to farmers across different regions of the country;
- (c) the support systems that are in place to help farmers adopt these new varieties; and
- (d) the expected costs for farmers to adopt these new varieties and the manner in which Government plan to ensure affordability?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Yes, National Agricultural Research System (NARS) under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed 109 special trait varieties of 61 crops including 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops which are resistant to the various biotic and abiotic stresses like insects, diseases, drought, water-logging, heat, saline soils etc. and rich in nutrients.

After release and notification of the varieties, their details are shared with the states and other public and private sector seed producing agencies before finalization of breeder seed indents during both Rabi and Kharif seasons and the breeder seed is produced by the developing organizations as per the indents received from various public and private sector seed producing agencies representing all regions of the country. The breeder seed is supplied to these agencies for downstream multiplication of foundation and certified seeds in subsequent seasons. National Seed Corporation Ltd. plays a significant role in production of stock seed of these varieties after identification and provides quality seed in the next season.

(c) & (d): The newly released varieties are demonstrated under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) through Front Line Demonstrations conducted by All India Coordinated Research Projects of different crops, Cluster Front Line Demonstrations by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) and Mini kits by State Department of agriculture. Likewise, the Mission for Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is implemented in the country for holistic development of horticulture, which includes assistance for production of planting material of perennial crops through establishment of nurseries in private sector, tissue culture nurseries and seed production of open pollinated and hybrid vegetables and spices including climate resilient crop varieties developed by ICAR. The details of these varieties are shared with farmers through interactions during farmers' field visits, field days, Krishi Melas, farmers trainings, Doordarshan, radio, social media, Institutes/ ICAR websites, pamphlets, press and electronic media etc.

There is no additional costs for farmers to adopt these varieties. Government provides assistance for distribution of foundation/ certified seeds through Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP) through its Seed Village programme, where an assistance of 50% for distribution of quality seeds of cereals and 60% for distribution of quality seeds of pulses, oilseeds and green manure crops including climate resilient and biofortified crop varieties.
