

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 27.11.2009
ANSWERED ON**

NEED TO RE ORIENT R D IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR .

926

Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda

Will the Minister of COALCOALAGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) proposes to reorient its research and development (R&D) in agriculture and bridge critical gaps;

(b) if so, whether there is also need to revise the course curriculum of agricultural education to make it more relevant; and

(c) if so, the steps Government/ICAR has taken/propose to take to re-orient research and development in agriculture sector?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)The Indian Council of Agricultural Research continuously examines all its ongoing schemes through various review mechanisms and, wherever felt necessary, the schemes are reoriented keeping in view the national priorities, and to bridge critical gaps.

(b)Revision of PG course curricula and syllabi was undertaken in 2009 and extant 95 P.G. courses were revised and reorganized into 83 courses. The agricultural universities have agreed to adopt the revised course curricula and syllabi. In accordance with Deans Committee Report, Agriculture Universities have adopted the revised syllabi for UG courses in Agriculture and Allied Sciences.

(c)During the XI Plan, several new initiatives have been pursued to meet the emerging challenges in agriculture. In this endeavour, establishment of three new institutes has been initiated viz., National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management (already established at Baramati, Maharashtra), National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, and Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (already approved in principle by Planning Commission and in the process of seeking approval). New tools of science such as marker assisted selection, gene prospecting and allele mining, gene knock down technology, bioremediation, nanotechnology, etc. have been incorporated in research, with due capacity building of scientists through national and international training programmes.