

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 12.11.2010
ANSWERED ON**

FARM TECHNOLOGY IN RAIN FED DISTRICTS OF VIDARBHA .

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Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether farm technology in rain-fed crop districts of Vidarbha, where the incidence of farmers' suicides is the maximum, has been improved through ICAR having assessed and refined more than 2300 technologies;
- (b) if so, whether "on-farm-trials" were conducted in Maharashtra to ascertain their suitability to specific locations for enhancing productivity and profitability; and
- (c) whether new technologies are being adopted by marginal and poor farmers who need focused attention for enhancing their productivity?

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) ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities have developed suitable technologies for Vidarbha region and these have been demonstrated through on-farm trials.

(b) More than 200 on-farm trials were conducted in different projects like NATP-PSR, NATP-IVLP in Akola and neighboring districts of Vidarbha. A total of 367 demonstrations on various technologies including, popularization of single cross maize hybrids with management practices to enhance the productivity and profitability of the farmers were conducted in different locations of Maharashtra. The yield in "on farm demonstrations" was more than 47 q/ha as against state productivity of 26.6 q/ha. Further, new varieties of sorghum provided significant increase in productivity and profitability in the dry region of Vidarbha. In Maharashtra, it was found that the yield gains were in the range of 10-40% across the years (1999 to 2009) depending upon rainfall pattern.

(c) Yes, Sir. The poor farmers have adopted the farm-pond technology and in situ moisture conservation practices with the support of the Government. The improved varieties in cotton, sorghum and intercropping systems have been adopted by 25-30% farmers. The demonstrations were also conducted on marginal farmers' fields. Specifically in maize, the area, production and productivity of maize has increased within two years because of introduction of single cross hybrids. The area increased from 5.81 to 6.72 lakh ha (15.66%), productivity increased from 1914 kg to 2665 kg/ha (39%) and the production from 11.21 lakh tones to 17.89 lakh tones (59.73%).

New technologies have also played effective role in mechanising different agricultural operations for enhancing productivity of irrigated and rainfed crops in the Vidarbha region. Improved designs of farm tools and implements are being used by farmers through ownership as well as on custom hiring basis.