

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2727
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24/03/2023

U2I2 CONSORTIUM TO DEVELOP AGRICULTURE

2727. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

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

- (a) Whether Government has plans to sign agreements with USA, Israel and UAE to form U2I2 consortium to develop agriculture and its allied technology to increase productivity;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) Whether Government has entered into any agreements with USA and Israel to introduce advanced farming techniques in India; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): According to Ministry of External Affairs, there is no proposal to form I2U2 consortium to develop agriculture and its allied technology to increase productivity. However, Prime Ministers of India and Israel, Presidents of USA and UAE convened the first leaders' meeting of the "I2U2" Group. This unique grouping of countries aims to tackle challenges confronting the world with a particular focus on joint investments and new initiatives in water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security. To this end, the I2U2 leaders highlighted for initiative on Food Security under which there will be development of series of integrated food parks across India.

Further on the margins of I2U2 Business Forum, India has joined the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate-AIM4C) on 22 February, 2023 by signing the letter of intent. AIM4C was launched by the UAE and the US at Conference of Parties-26 (COP26) and includes Israel as a partner among 140 other governmental and non-governmental

entities. AIM4C seeks to address climate change and global hunger by uniting partners to significantly increase the investment in and other support for climate smart agriculture and food systems innovation for the period of five years (2021-2025).

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India signed a Work Plan Program on 24th May 2021 for 3 years (2021-23) with Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State of Israel to accomplish the completion of the Centers of Excellence (CoE) by bringing them to operational stage, development of Value Chain and Hi-tech agriculture for production of quality planting material in fruits and vegetable crops.
