

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2081**  
ANSWERED ON- 09/08/2024

**INTEGRATION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE WITH MODERN  
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES**

2081. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

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

- (a) the efforts being made to integrate traditional knowledge systems and practices of indigenous communities in Odisha into modern agricultural practices; and
- (b) the steps being taken to facilitate knowledge exchange programs between indigenous farmers in Odisha and modern agricultural researchers to enhance sustainable farming practices?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi and its ten regional centres are engaged in collection, conservation, characterization and evaluation of different germplasms including those of indigenous communities and provides the beneficial trait specific materials to breeders for introgression in the improved varieties for farmers. Its regional centre at Cuttack is engaged in these activities in Odisha. Presently, NBPGR has conserved 4,69,793 germplasm accessions including 96,964 traditional/ folk varieties and land races in its National Genebank (NGB) which also includes germplasm accessions from Odisha.

(b) The ICAR has set up 33 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Odisha to promote the use of advanced agricultural technologies and practices among the extension functionaries of state line departments and farmers including indigenous ones. The activities of KVKs include on-farm testing to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems; frontline demonstration to establish the production potential of improved agricultural technologies on the farmers' fields; capacity development of farmers for knowledge and skill up gradation; and production of quality seeds, planting materials and other technology inputs for availability to the farmers. In order to develop awareness of improved agricultural technology among the farmers, a large number of extension activities are taken up by the KVKs. KVKs also organize Kisan Melas and workshops where indigenous farmers of that regions are invited and during these events effective exchange of knowledge takes place between farmers and agriculture researchers.

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