

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2419
ANSWERED ON- 21/03/2025

**SCIENTIFIC AUDIT PROTOCOL SYSTEM FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT ICAR
RESEARCH CENTRE**

2419. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) the measures taken by Ministry to establish a scientific audit protocol system for research activities and reduce unproductive spending at each Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) research center as on date;
- (b) the recommendations made by the Committee formed in 2017 concerning the results of various ICAR schemes during the XIIth plan period; and
- (c) the actions taken by the Ministry to execute these recommendations and the ultimate result of implementing these suggestions as on date?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has implemented several measures to establish a scientific audit protocol system for research activities and to reduce unproductive spending. The research activities of all ICAR institutes undergo annual monitoring by the Research Advisory Council (RAC) and a comprehensive evaluation every five years by the Quinquennial Review Team (QRT). These committees, comprising subject matter experts, assess institutional progress and provide guidance on future research directions. Besides, the Institute Research Committee (IRC), oversees the planning, execution, and periodic review of in-house research projects. It serves as the primary technical monitoring mechanism, ensuring alignment with projected audit expenditure as per the approved Research Project Proposal (RPP). All these evaluations are for assessing the scientific output, institutional governance, and financial efficiency, offering recommendations to enhance productivity and eliminate unproductive expenditures. Scientific performance of the individual scientist is regularly monitored through Agricultural Research Management system (ARMS) and Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR).

In addition, ICAR has developed an Audit Manual to strengthen financial management to optimize resource utilization, it introduced a Scientific Equipment Policy, ensuring efficient audit and lifecycle management of scientific equipment across institutes, minimizing unproductive spending. Further, ICAR revised its Handbook of Delegation of Powers to streamline administrative and financial processes, clearly defining delegated authority for better decision-making and cost control.

(b) & (c):

- Over the years, the Institutes have made significant contribution in development of agricultural technologies and packages of practices suitable for domestic farms and farmers including seed, planting materials, animal health care products, animal genetic improvement methods and farm equipment etc.,. The network of 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) is promoting new technologies of agriculture and allied sectors through technology assessment, demonstration and capacity development among the extension functionaries of state governments and farmers, through on-farm testing to identify the location specificity to technology under various farming systems; frontline demonstration to establish the production potential of improved agricultural technologies on the farmers' fields.

- In order to reduce the unproductive spending, ICAR has reshaped its schemes from 28 to 09 schemes only. The recommendations of the Committee formed in 2017 were addressed during the appraisal and approval of the ICAR schemes for the period of 2021-2026. Accordingly, following activities have been undertaken:

- Genome Editing for enhancing climate resilience and ensuring food security
- Gene Bank for Crops Germplasm with 10 lakh germplasm lines for future food and nutritional security.
- Mission for Cotton Productivity For the benefit of lakhs of cotton growing farmers
- National Mission on High Yielding Seeds
- Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses
- Global R & D hub for 'Shree Anna'
- Institutes have signed license agreement with industries to promote their technologies.
- Collaborative work in the area of research and human resource development has been initiated with prominent national institutes like the IITs, NITs, IISERs, NITTTR, etc.
- Extensive training and exposure interactions are organized to push the drone technology for demonstration of drones in the farmers' fields for varied applications.
- Training provided on soy milk and tofu processing across the country. Nearly two hundred units are currently involved in soybean processing in 17 states.
