

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3225
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01/01/2019

INNOVATIONS IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

3225. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes innovations in agri-sector for reducing wastage, increasing agri-produce and cutting fertilizer use to enhance soil fertility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes a comprehensive strategy to promote start-ups in agri-sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) ICAR has developed location specific, cost effective, eco-friendly farming practices; namely resource conservation technologies (zero tillage, laser levelling, bed planting, system of rice intensification, direct seeding of rice), participatory watershed management for rainfed agriculture, conservation agriculture, micro irrigation, integrated water management, soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management, climate resilient technologies, organic farming and Integrated Farming System with due cognizance of traditional indigenous technology knowhow and grassroot farm innovations. The Council has developed technology for preparation of various types of organic manures such as phosphocompost, vermicompost, bio-enriched compost etc. using available rural and urban wastes.

The ICAR is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, biofertilizers, green manuring, in-situ crop residue recycling etc.) of plant nutrients with 4Rs approach i.e right quantity, right time, right mode and right type of fertilizer to reduce use of chemical fertilizers to enhance soil fertility. In addition, split application and placement of fertilizers, slow releasing fertilizers including neem coated urea, growing leguminous crops and use of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) are also advocated to minimize their use. The ICAR also imparts training, organises front-line demonstrations etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) To promote start-ups in agri-sector, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 25 Agri- business Incubation (ABI) Centers, keeping in view the spectrum of technologies, available infrastructure and the core competency of the institutes. These ABIs act as an effective platform for fostering the growth of sustainable business endeavour and nurturing the techno-entrepreneurs. The ABI centers provide a wide range of services such as research support; business planning; office space; access to information and communication technologies; and advice on management, marketing, technical, legal and financial issues. ABI centres have facilitated more than 600 incubatees/ entrepreneurs/ start-ups for their agri-business related technical as well as infrastructural needs. The success stories of 100 such start-ups in various sectors including Agriculture Engineering Machines/ Tools, Bio-pesticides and Crop Nutrition, Crop Production and Production and Production Processes, Fish Products and Processes, Food Products and Processes, Seed and Planting Material and Textile Industry have been documented and published.
