

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1730
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02/07/2019

NEW VARIETIES OF CROPS BY ICAR

1730. SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:

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

- (a) whether the ICAR has developed and released certain new varieties of various crops during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government/ICAR for raising crop yields, increasing their nutrition level and developing climate resilient crop varieties and also for attracting youth in farm sector?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. During last three years (2016-2018), the ICAR has developed and released 886 high yielding, eco-friendly, improved quality, agro-climatic zone specific field crop varieties of various crops through its Institutes, All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) and State Agricultural Universities as per the details given below:-

Crops	Year-wise no. of varieties			Total
	2016	2017	2018	
Cereals	152	116	200	468
Oilseeds	50	28	49	127
Pulses	43	32	47	122
Fibre Crops	33	15	29	77
Forages	20	8	28	56
Sugarcane	9	8	18	35
Others	0	0	1	01
Total	307	207	372	886

Efforts were made to breed bio-fortified varieties wherein 35 bio-fortified varieties of different crops viz., wheat (11), rice (6), maize (4), pearl millet (5), lentil (2), mustard (2), soybean (1) and horticultural crops (4) have been released with higher nutritional quality. Moreover, among these 886 varieties/hybrids developed during last 3 years, 736 varieties/hybrids are climate resilient, with enhanced ability to combat abiotic stresses.

Availability of good quality seeds of high yielding varieties is the key to raising crop yields. ICAR is mandated to produce breeder seed of all released and notified varieties (as per the indents received from Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare) which in turn are converted to other classes of seeds viz., foundation and certified seed through multiplication by different agencies for further availability to the farmers.

During 2018-19, under Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) programme, 3474 rural youths were provided skill development training in entrepreneurial activities through 220 training programmes. As a result of the training, 2497 rural youths adopted ARYA enterprises and are running the entrepreneurial activities in sustainable manner by establishing 1022 micro-enterprise units at village level. In addition, 13.42 lakh farmers including youths were trained for updating their knowledge and skills on modern agricultural technologies. Agri-business Incubation Centres established in ICAR institutes are facilitating entrepreneurs for their agri-business related technical needs by organizing various agri-business related programs at institute/zonal/national level.
