

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1575
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/09/2020

NATIONAL HORTICULTURE FAIR 2020

1575. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI REBATI TRIPURA:
SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:
SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON:
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:
SHRI SELVAM G.:

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

- (a) whether Indian Institute of Horticulture Research has organized National Horticulture Fair-2020;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of farmers and other stakeholders who participated in the fair along with the achievements of organizing such a fair;
- (d) the number of horticulture colleges which participated in the said fair, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) whether the Union Government has received a request for setting up Horticulture colleges in the country including Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on it; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government to carry out more research activity in the field of horticulture to make optimum utilization of resources and boost the horticulture production?

A N S W E R

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

- (a) Yes, ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bengaluru has organized National Horticulture Fair -2020.
- (b) ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR), Bengaluru has organized a four-day National Horticulture Fair during 5 - 8, February, 2020 at IIHR, Bengaluru. The details of activities held included the following:-

- a. Live demonstrations on farm on improved varieties, disease and pest resistant varieties of different horticulture crops were organized,
- b. Organised live demonstrations on farming system, grafting technology, organic and soilless cultivation, polyhouse cultivation,
- c. Workshop and seminars were also organised,
- d. Launched Apps and Seed portal,
- e. Distributed seed and planting materials.

(c) 70,000 farmers, 6 start-ups, 30 Farmer producer organizations and 200 different input agencies related to horticulture participated in the fair.

The main Achievements were:

- a. Two hundred and sixty three improved/disease and pest resistant varieties and technologies developed by institute in various vegetables, fruits, flowers and medicinal crops were demonstrated on farm.
- b. Live demonstrations on following were organised:
 - Mango-based Integrated Farming Systems,
 - Mixed Cropping System,
 - Vegetable grafting technology in chilli and tomato,
 - Organic and soilless cultivation of vegetables,
 - Polyhouse cultivation of high value vegetables and ornamental crops,
 - A work shop on urban horticulture was organized during the event in which 200 members participated.
- c. A seminar was organised on Recent Advances in Cultivation of Betel vine, Black pepper, Chilli and Garcinia in which 1000 farmers participated.
- d. **The 'ICAR-IIHR Seed Portal'** and a trilingual mobile app '**Arka Bagwani**' was launched and Arka solar-powered vending tricycles were inaugurated during the fair.
- e. Seeds and planting materials of ICAR-IIHR developed varieties were sold during the fair.

(d) The following Horticulture Colleges from various States participated in the fair:

- a. One Horticulture college from Odisha
- b. Two Horticulture colleges from Tamil Nadu
- c. Five Horticulture colleges from Karnataka

(e) No such proposal has been received by the Council.

(f) The steps taken up by 23 Research Institutes/Directorates/NRCs and 12 AICRPs under Horticultural Science Division of ICAR to make optimum utilization of resources and boost the horticulture production are at **Annexure-I**.

The steps taken up by 23 Research Institutes/Directorates/NRCs and 12 AICRPs under Horticultural Science Division of ICAR to make optimum utilization of resources and boost the horticulture production are:

Improved varieties: Identification of suitable varieties and standardization of production technologies. Thrust is being given on developing/breeding improved varieties, hybrids, male sterile lines (for seed production) etc. that will contribute to enhanced production.

Genetic diversity: Future productivity is closely linked to conservation of genetic diversity and utilization of wild species for biotic and abiotic resistance. Conservation of fruits and vegetable genotypes form a part of this platform on biodiversity conservation.

Protected cultivation: Research on protected cultivation for nursery production, vegetable production is underway.

Micronutrient formulation: Use of micronutrient formulation and development of crop-specific micronutrients in different fruits and vegetables production is being undertaken.

Refinement: Refinement and validation of production and protection technologies.

Planting material: Multiplication of seed and planting material developed through public sector is being carried out and quality seed and planting material is made available to the farmers. Distribution of seed and quality planting materials for enhanced productivity.

Crop Management technologies: There is need to standardise crop production and crop protection technologies of varieties developed and to develop the package of practices for each and every crop.

Post harvest management: Research is carried out on post harvest technology and value addition to reduce post harvest losses and bring produce under maximum utilization.

Technologies transfer/Commercialization/ MoUs: There is need to transfer the technologies developed to the stakeholders including farmers. Also there is need to commercialise some of the technologies. In every sphere of technology development through PPP mode there is need to sign MoU.

Mobile apps and documentaries: To transfer technologies and making aware of these technologies, development of Mobile apps and production of documentaries are prerequisite.

Custodian farmers: To enhance the production of indigenous fruits and vegetables, conservation through custodian farmers, documentation and evaluation is being undertaken.

Scientists-farmers interface: Regular scientists-farmers interface meeting is organized on different crops at different places to address farmers' problems that will ultimately contribute to enhanced production of fruits and vegetables.

Human resource: Today's human resource (HR) development will contribute to future science and enhance production of fruits and vegetables. Steps are taken to impart more post graduate teaching and research to more number of students by expanding the post graduate research access to different parts of the country, eg. at IIHR, Bengaluru.

Transfer of Technology: technologies are disseminated to the farmers through AICRP/SAUs.

Extension: Frontline extension programmes are carried out to reach to the farmers. Training and skill up-gradation of farmers and other extension officials on horticultural crops.

TSP/NEH: Besides programmes under Tribal Sub plan (TSP) and programmes for North East Hills (NEH) are undertaken towards technology transfer and capacity building so that production of fruits and vegetables in tribal regions and in NEH can be enhanced.

Further, these Institutes/Directorates/NRCs take following steps to promote horticulture in the country:

- Organize Scientist – farmer interface meetings, farmer's mela, exhibitions, advisory services etc.
- Reach out to farming community through diverse ICT Platforms i.e Mobile Apps, Social media.
- The institute websites have "Farmer's corner" exclusively for the farming community and Crop specific advisory services.
- Provide weekly status report on insect pest and diseases of various crops.
- Extension pamphlets in English, Hindi and other local languages, extension bulletins, Farmers advisory services, planting material availability, guide on nutritional disorders etc. are also available.
- Some Institutes have Facebook which are also utilized by many farmers for getting quick information about their queries regarding released varieties, planting material availability and pest and diseases of crops.

SMS service: SMS service is also available to alert the farmers for any impending disasters or pest and disease out breaks.
