

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2300
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH, 2022

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN DRY AREAS

2300. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

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

- (a) the details of the achievements of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has signed any agreement through ICARDA with any major R&D institutions to improve the condition of Indian agriculture sector;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the role of ICARDA in reducing poverty, improving food security, improving nutrition and health and sustaining the natural resource base in the recent years;
- (e) whether the Government has encouraged ICARDA to conduct research to benefit farmers of all regions, including big, small or marginal with new technologies; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) The ICARDA enabled access to global germplasm for use in the Indian breeding programmes. Ten high yielding varieties of Lentil, Chickpea and Barley have been released by ICARDA along with ICAR for commercial cultivation in India during the last three years. Of these, six were released in 2019, three in 2020 and one in 2021.

(b) & (c): No such agreement has been signed.

(d) The ICARDA is engaged in the research and development of improved varieties of food crops (Wheat and Barley) and nutritionally rich pulses (Chickpea, Lentil, Grasspea/ Lathyrus and Faba bean). Besides, ICARDA also works on different natural management systems like cropping systems, water productivity modelling, conservation agriculture technology, fodder cactus, etc. in association with the ICAR institutions, the State/Central Agricultural Universities and the Central and State Departments.

(e) & (f): The Government of India has helped ICARDA in the establishment of a Food Legume Research Platform in Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh in 2014-15. Later, the ICARDA established a Satellite Hub on Pulses in West Bengal and one on Natural Resource Management in Rajasthan for the benefit of Indian farming community.