

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4246
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th MARCH, 2022

KRISHI VIGYAN MELA

4246. DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL:

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

- (a) whether Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi organized a Krishi Vigyan Mela in March, 2022;
(b) if so, the total number of farmers who participated in this exhibition including the various features of the said exhibition;
(c) whether high-yielding varieties of seeds have been sold in the exhibition including the details of the specific features of these seeds; and
(d) the various steps being taken or likely to be taken by the Government for Digital Smart Farming?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) organized Krishi Vigyan Mela on 9-11 March 2022. Around 90,000 visitors including farmers, farm women, extension workers, entrepreneurs, students and others participated in the mela. Mela was organized on the theme '*Takniki gyan se Atmanirbhar kisan*' with five sub-themes. Various features of exhibitions were Digital Smart Agriculture; Protected, Vertical, Hydroponic and Aeroponic Farming for Higher Productivity and Income; Promotion of Agricultural Export for Prosperity; Organic and Natural Farming and Innovative Farmers Meet.

(c) Seeds of high-yielding varieties of basmati rice, mungbean, pigeonpea, bajra and vegetables (Loki/taroi, bhindi, Chaolai and Lobia) were sold in the mela which include three new varieties of Basmati rice (Pusa Basmati 1847, PB 1885, PB 1886) resistant to blast and blight diseases; popular Basmati rice varieties (PB 1509, PB 1692, PB 1121, PB 1401 and PB 1718); short duration summer mung (Pusa Vishal and Pusa 1431); short and medium duration pigeonpea (Pusa-991, Pusa-992 and Pusa Arhar-16); high yielding bajra (Pusa 1201); and vegetable seeds for kitchen garden.

(d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has started a Network Program on Precision Agriculture (NePPA) involving 16 research institutes. This program envisages digital smart farming for field crops, livestock and fishery sector exploring potential use of recently developed techniques i.e. sensors, IoTs, Drone and satellite remote sensing and Artificial intelligence and big data analytics.