

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO: 120
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3rd DECEMBER, 2024

NEW CROP VARIETIES DEVELOPED BY ICAR

*120. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed certain new crop varieties with special traits in the recent past, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of steps taken by the Government to address the twin challenges of climate change and malnutrition while developing these new crop varieties; and
- (c) the time by which the new crop varieties will be made available to farmers for cultivation?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. 120 TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2024 REGARDING
“NEW CROP VARIETIES DEVELOPED BY ICAR”**

(a) to (c): Since January, 2024, National Agricultural Research System (NARS) including ICAR Institutes and State/Central Agricultural Universities (CAU/SAU) under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed 524 new varieties/hybrids of field crops and 167 of horticultural crops. The field crop varieties include 246 of cereals [Rice (126), Wheat (22), Maize (51), Sorghum (12), Pearl millet (13), Small millets (21), Barley (1)]; 55 of Oilseeds [Indian mustard (8), Yellow sarson (2), Groundnut (8), Soybean (12), Linseed (9), Safflower (4), Sesame (5), Sunflower (3), Niger (2) and Castor (2)]; 69 of Pulses [Chickpea (19), Pigeonpea (4), Lentil (7), Fieldpea (6), Urdbean (6), Mungbean (15), Cowpea (3), Lathyrus (2), Mothbean (2), Rajmash (1), Cluster bean (1), Horsegram (1), Faba bean (1) and Indian bean (1)]; 109 of Commercial crops [Cotton (89), Jute (5), Mesta (1), Sugarcane (12) and Tobacco (2)]; 24 of Forage crops [Forage pearl millet (5), Forage maize (6), Forage sorghum (13)] and 11 of Potential crops [Grain amaranth (7), Winged bean (2), Kalingda (1), Asalio (1)]. The horticultural crop varieties include Perennial spices (19), Seed spices (8), Potato & tropical tuber crops (8), Plantation crops (6), Fruits crops (40), Vegetable crops (70) and Flowers & other ornamental plants (16). Out of these 109 trait specific varieties of 34 field and 27 horticultural crops were dedicated to the Nation by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 11 August, 2024.

While developing these varieties, focus was given on adaptation to climate change and improved nutrition quality traits, as a result 455 varieties have tolerance/resistance to one or more biotic and/or abiotic stresses; amongst them 92 varieties have been bred for extreme resilience against abiotic stresses (rainfed, drought, flood, water logging, terminal heat, low temperature, salinity, low phosphorus) and 32 varieties are biofortified with improved nutritional qualities.

After release and notification of a variety, breeder seed is produced by the developing organizations as per the indents received from various public and private sector seed producing agencies, which is supplied to these agencies for downstream multiplication of foundation and certified seeds in subsequent seasons. This process takes about three years, and Department tries its best to take their seeds to farmers field in minimum time after release.
