

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2932
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18TH MARCH, 2025

DEVELOPMENT OF SHREE ANNA

2932. SHRI PARSHOTTAMBHAI RUPALA:

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

- (a) the details of plans for prioritizing the development of Shree Anna;
- (b) whether the FAO and UNFCCC have accepted that these crops are climate resilient, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of specific action plan for its development, progress and the steps taken to preserve original indigenous seeds and multiply them; and
- (d) the details of specific information about progress particularly in the State of Gujarat?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its nodal institute for millets i.e., Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad is undertaking basic and strategic research to develop high yielding climate resilient varieties/ hybrids of Shree Anna including pearl millet (bajra), sorghum (jowar), finger millet (ragi/mandua), foxtail millet (kangni/ Italian millet), little millet (kutki), kodo millet, barnyard millet (sawan/ jhangora), proso millet (cheena/common millet), and brown top millet (korale). Besides, development of production and protection technologies, technology dissemination/transfer among framers/other stakeholders, etc. are also being promoted in the country. In addition, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad is working as knowledge partner with the state governments in State millet missions and organizing many Millet conclaves, Millet carnivals, Millet food Festivals, Exhibition stalls in association with State Agricultural Departments, State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

The Government of India had proposed to United Nations for declaring 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYM). The proposal of India was supported by 72 countries and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as International Year of Millets. In order to increase the production and productivity of millets (Shree Anna) in the country, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing a Sub-Mission on Nutri-Cereals (Millets) under National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) in all 28 States including Gujarat state & 2 Union Territories viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under Rashtirya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The states can promote Millets (Shree Anna) under RKVY with approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by Chief Secretary of the State. The production of Shree Anna (millets) in Gujarat has increased from 10.92 lakh tonnes during 2020-21 to 14.09 lakh tonnes during 2023-24.

The National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR), New Delhi is the nodal institute in India for managing plant genetic resources. The NBPGR focuses on the explorations, acquisition, conservation, characterization, and evaluation of plant genetic resources, including indigenous varieties. NBPGR houses the National Genebank, which conserves a vast collection of 4.71 lakh accessions of plant genetic resources, including seeds, to ensure food and nutritional security.
