

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1565

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 09th December, 2025

Extinction of Traditional Crops due to Climate Change

1565. Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that many traditional crops of the mountainous regions are on the verge of extinction due to climate change, migration, and commercial farming;
- (b) the action taken by the ICAR and the National Gene Bank to conserve, document, and reintroduce such extinct or endangered crop varieties;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch a special program for the conservation and propagation of nutrient-rich "forgotten crops" (millets, pseudo-cereals, medicinal plants, etc.); and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to revive these crop varieties through seed banks, marketing support, processing, and value addition infrastructure?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Central Arid Zone Research Institute (ICAR-CAZRI), an Institute under Indian Council of Agricultural Research undertakes initiatives for the conservation, improvement, and sustainable use of traditional arid-region crops such as pearl millet, moth bean, cluster bean, grasses, medicinal plants, shrubs, and arid fruits. As on 30th November 2025, ICAR and the National Gene Bank have undertaken measures to conserve, document, and reintroduce 100086 extinct or endangered crop varieties which include 85587 landrace varieties and 14499 traditional cultivar varieties.

(c) & (d): Government has been actively promoting conservation and propagation of nutrient-rich "forgotten crops". United Nations declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets at India's initiative, giving a major boost to research, conservation, and large-scale promotion of millets across the country. Further, various ICAR institutes and National Gene Bank are continuously working to conserve, improve, and mainstream millets, pseudo-cereals, medicinal plants, and other underutilized crops through dedicated programmes and research initiatives. The Government is supporting States by providing market facilities and market linkage to the farmers. The produce grown in the mountainous regions are majorly organic produce due to least use of agro-chemicals. To provide marketing facilities and market linkages for these organically grown produce including those of medicinal and aromatic plants, Govt. is promoting organic produce specific special FPOs and providing them market linkages through publicity among and interface with organic produce buyers. In addition, Government also takes up with States to create niche/ dedicated space in the mandis for sale-transaction of organically grown produce.