

Answer to the Lok Sabha Question Dy. No. 25341 raised by Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel regarding "Impact of EL-Nino on agriculture"

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a) Whether the impact of EL-Nino on monsoon has caused adverse effect on the agriculture in all parts of the country;

Since 1980, all the drought years faced by India were El-Nino years. But, all El-Nino events have not caused adverse effect on agricultural crop production in the country.

b) if so, the details thereof; whether the Government has formulated any policy for the protection of the interests of farmers, agriculture and consumers;

CRIDA under ICAR has studied the impact of El Niño on agriculture in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh.

The details are given below:

Andhra Pradesh

- Except Nellore district, the total food grain production in the state showed declining trend during El Niño years. The decrease in production was found to be more than 10% in several districts
- The impact of rainfall deviation on rice during El Niño years was not significant, when the total annual production was considered. However, the yields of dryland crops were significantly affected in most of the El Niño years

Gujarat

- Rice was highly influenced by El Niño episodes. Impact was more in Vadodara district, may be due to more upland cultivation
- Groundnut productivity appears to be more sensitive to El Niño in Jamnagar and Junagadh districts
- Maize yield was more sensitive during El Niño events in Panchmahal district
- Strong El Niño events exerted more negative impact on cotton yields especially in districts viz. Ahmedabad, Bharuch and Rajkot
- Strong El Niño events adversely influenced sugarcane and pearl millet productivity
- Castor and mustard productivity was largely influenced by moderate El Niño events
- Wheat yields declined by about 25% in the El Niño years compared to non-El Niño years

West Bengal

- No precise quantitative associations between the occurrence of El Niño and changes in agricultural production have been established

- Moderate and strong El Niño years affect the rainfall situation in southern West Bengal, but as the amount of seasonal rainfall of the region is very high (more than 1000 mm), no significant effect on yield was observed

Himachal Pradesh

- The effect of decreasing tendency of the southwest monsoon rainfall on cereal grain productivity during El Niño years is visible on larger part of the state barring Mandi and Solan districts
- Strong El Niño event had more positive influence on linseed production than weak or moderate El Niño

c) If so, the details thereof;