

## **CRIDA : HYDERABAD**

### **Answer to the provisionally admitted question for the Rajya Sabha - D.No. S 8026**

**a) Whether Government has launched the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) to address the impact of climate change on agricultural sector;**

Yes

**b) If so , the details thereof ; and**

Recognizing that the climate change is likely to have a major impact on agricultural and allied sector, the Council has initiated a mega network project, National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) during 2010-11 with an outlay of Rs.350 crores. This scheme will continue during the XII plan with a multi-pronged strategy encompassing strategic research on adaptation and mitigation, demonstration of technologies on farmers' fields and create awareness among farmers and other stake holders. The strategic research aims mainly to evolve crop varieties tolerant to climatic stresses like floods, droughts, frost, inundation due to cyclones and heat waves. Standardization of management practices to reduce emission of greenhouse gases is also envisaged. Mitigation of heat stress on livestock through shelter management and feed supplements is also targeted. To accomplish these tasks modern infrastructure facilities are being setup at premier research institutes like IARI, CRIDA, IIHR, NDRI, CMFRI, etc.

Simultaneously, another component on technology demonstration on farmers fields has been initiated in 100 vulnerable districts of the country. This program will further expanded to 200 districts in XII Plan. The main components to be included in the demonstrations are short duration drought and flood tolerant varieties, micro irrigation systems to conserve irrigation water, trash burning to minimize frost damage, water harvesting for supplementary irrigation and drought proofing, and custom hiring centers for timely farm operations, etc.

During the XI plan about one lakh farmers are being covered through this extensive program. The ICAR in collaboration with SAUs are also conducting climate change awareness programmes to farmers across the country to instill knowledge on better management of natural resources and conserving the ecosystem through efficient soil, water and fertilizer utilization and thereby minimizing the greenhouse gas emission. This program will be continued during XII plan.

**c) the achievements made under the initiative;**

**d) Weather this also being implemented in Andhra Pradesh; and**

**e) the steps taken proposed to be taken by Government to extend in coverage across the country?**