



Indian Council of Agricultural Research.  
PR UNIT, Krisni Bhavan, New Delhi

Newspaper/Magazine: THE HINDU

Date: 10/11/2005

Place of Publication: Delhi/Chandigarh/Faridabad/Meerut/Jaipur/Bangalore/Mumbai

# ICAR to release new varieties of pulses

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has identified six new varieties of pulses for release in various agro-climatic zones of the country for this year. Three varieties of chickpea (two desi and one kabuli), one fieldpea, one lentil and one moongbean variety have been identified. The Rabi-Pulses Group of the ICAR recommended these varieties last week after considering various proposals.

The BGM 547 chickpea variety, developed by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), has been identified for release in the North Western Plains Zone (NWPZ) in late sown conditions when monsoon is delayed. This has been derived from mutation breeding after 20 years. The last such variety was

released in 1985. The average grain yield of this variety is 1,800 kg per hectare and it is 15.84 per cent superior to all such varieties. It matures in 135 days and is tolerant to wilt, root rot and stunt diseases.

The Phule G 9425-9 chickpea variety developed at Mahatma the Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth (MPKV), Rahuri, has been identified for release in the NWPZ region under late sown conditions. It has yield superiority of 1,800 kg per hectare and is resistant to wilting. It matures in 136 days and has pulse recovery of 76 per cent.

The 128 kabuli chickpea variety, developed at the IARI Regional Station, Dharwad, has been recommended for the Central Zone. It has yield superiority of 1900 kg per ha over the prevailing kabuli chickpea varieties

in the region. The average maturity of this variety is 116 days. It is moderately resistant to wilt, root rot and stunt and to pod borer. It is suitable for double cropping systems in Central India and has excellent grain quality.

The IPFD 1-10 variety of fieldpea, developed by the Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur, has been identified for release in the Central Zone and the Northern Hill Zone (NHZ). It has yield superiority of 2,100 kg/ha and is resistant to powdery mildew. It is useful for all conditions and is suited for cultivation after harvest of kharif crops. It matures in 109 days and has got wide adaptability.

## For Uttaranchal

The VL Masoor 507 lentil va-

riety, developed by the Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan (VPKAS), Almora, is recommended for the Northern Hill Zone. It matures in 180 days and is adaptable to the NHZ situation. So far no bold-seeded lentil variety has been developed for the hills of Uttaranchal.

It has significant yield superiority and a higher degree of resistance against wilt.

The HUM-16 moongbean variety, developed by the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, has been identified for the North East Plains Zone (NEPZ). It is suitable for summer cultivation and has yield superiority of 1520 kg/hectare. It is the first genotype in NEPZ which matures within 60 days and is suitable for summer cultivation after harvesting of wheat.

The ICAR has also initiated measures to enhance the Breeder Seed Production programme. Under this, the State Directorate of Agriculture would indent for new varieties that are less than five years old only. Any varieties and production mismatch would later be corrected. Project Coordinator Units would have to develop proposals for medium term storage of breeder seed for contingency plans.

During 2003-04, total pulses area in the country was 24.45 million hectares compared to 20.05 million hectares in the previous year whereas the production was 15.24 million tonnes compared to 11.24 million tonnes during 2002-03. This kharif pulse output is expected to be 4.98 million tonnes against 4.95 million tonnes.