

Investment in research on agricultural sector delivers higher returns than any other form of support to farmers in the country. Substantiate.

The agriculture and allied activities provide livelihood to more than 50% of the population and contribute 17% to the GDP. Here agriculture research can add value

Agriculture research benefits

The research in agriculture can increase the growth, address food security, reduce poverty and lower food prices. The ICAR

variant CO-0238 sugarcane yields 76.5

ton/ha whereas the traditional sugarcane

yields 14 ton/ha.

The ICAR has established more than

700 Krishi Vigyan Kendras for agriculture

research and extension services. As per the economic survey 2021-22 investments in agri research yielded more than power subsidy and fertilizer subsidy.

The biofortification has resulted in addressing the micronutrient deficiency among children and women. Also, the number of people brought out of poverty is 5-10 times more if money is spent in R&D.

Challenges: India spends less than 0.5% in agri. research under the agriculture GDP.

The research must be extended to livestock and fisheries sector too.

Way forward

India - Russia microbial encapsulation technology for smart delivery of beneficial microorganisms to plants is a welcome amidst climate change and population pressure on agriculture.