



ICAR releases six new varieties of pulses

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The Indian Council for Agricultural Research yesterday released six varieties of pulses - three chickpea, one fieldpea, one lentil and one mungbean variety - for different agro-climatic zones in the country.

A statement issued by the research body said the BGM 547 chickpea variety, developed from the IARI, has been identified for release in North Western Plains Zone (NWPZ) for late sown conditions.

This variety has been derived from mutation breeding after 20 years. The last such variety through mutation was released in 1985. The average grain yield of this variety is 1800 kg/ha and gives significant higher yield (mean superiority of 15.84 per cent over all

check varieties).

The medium maturity of the BGM 547 is of 135 days and is tolerant to wilt, root rot and stunt diseases. This variety is found suitable for cultivation in late sown conditions and also yields well under both irrigated and rain-fed conditions.

The agricultural research body said the IPFD 1-10 variety of fieldpea, developed by the Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur, has been identified for the release in the Central Zone and the Northern Hill Zone. It has yield superiority of 2100 kg/ha and is resistant to powdery mildew.

It is useful for all conditions, normal as well as for late sowing in Rabi and is suited for cultivation after harvest of Kharif crops. It matures in 109 days and has got

wider adaptability.

The VL Masoor 507 lentil variety, developed from Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan (VPKAS), Almora, is recommended for the Northern Hill Zone.

It matures in 179 days and is adaptable to NHZ situation. So far no bold-seeded lentil variety has been developed for the hills of Uttaranchal and this variety would meet the needs of the hill farmers. It has significant yield superiority and higher degree of resistance against wilt.

During 2003-04, total pulses area in the country was 24.45 million hectares compared to 20.05 million hectares in previous year whereas the production was 15.24 million tones as compared to 11.24 million tones during 2002-03.