The acceptance of these new groundnuts by the industry is high which included 35 participating industries in India, the Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC), and the Saurashtra Oil Millers Association in India to reach consumers with high-oleic groundnut oil and products in 2-3 years. Further, ICRISAT’s engagement with MARS Inc., Mondelez International and Nestlé India Ltd. is expected to enhance adoption of these improved varieties.

MARS has been financially supporting the commercialization preparations of high-oleic varieties in India since 2016. Thus, several confectionary and oil processors have reached out to ICRISAT for access to these new groundnuts. Thanks to the huge demand, Hindustan Insecticides Limited is current consulting with ICAR-Directorate of Groundnut Research and ICRISAT, seeking permission to acquire nucleus seed to take up BREEDER and Foundation seed class production to meet this huge demand.

The objective was to improve high-oleic groundnut varieties to meet market demand. Thus, established guidelines for testing and release of high-oleic groundnut varieties under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Groundnut in India.

The groundnut varieties Girnar 4 (ICGV 15083) and Girnar 5 (ICGV 15090) were released in India in 2019, and additional high-oleic lines shared with nine countries, thanks to the innovative processes in groundnut breeding and testing pipeline employed that included early generation testing using SNP markers, near-infrared spectroscopy and rapid generation advancement in a greenhouse. There is a demand for high-oleic groundnut varieties particularly by the food processing industry for its enhanced shelf-life benefits and by consumers for potential health benefits.

MNCs and domestic industries intend to use high-oleic groundnut kernels or oil in their products for enhanced shelf-life and consumer health.

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