

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. -1169**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16/12/2022

**ZERO TILLAGE PROCESSING FARMING**

1169#. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the zero tillage process and its benefits for yield and agricultural land;
- (b) the areas of land in the country where cultivation is being done through zero tillage process, crop-wise and State-wise; and
- (c) whether any scheme is being run by Government for the practice of zero tillage, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): Zero tillage is a single -pass seeding operation which places seed and fertilizer into soil not tilled since the harvest of the previous crop. The potential benefits of zero tillage include early sowing, less soil erosion from wind and water because of the mulch cover of previous crops covering the soil, less soil compaction, more fertile and resilient soils, higher input efficiency, lower fuel and labour costs and higher yield.

The zero tillage is mainly practiced in rice-wheat cropping system in Indo-Gangetic plains for wheat sowing after the harvest of paddy crop. The financial assistance for purchase of zero tillage machines is extended under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) and Central Sector Scheme on Crop Residue Management being implemented in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi. Under these schemes financial assistance @ 40-50% of the cost of machinery is provided to the farmers for purchase of machines on individual ownership basis. Under SMAM, financial assistance @ 40% of the project cost is provided to rural youth & farmer as an entrepreneur, Cooperative Societies of Farmers, Registered Farmers Societies, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Panchayats for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) and Hi-tech hubs of high value agricultural machines. The project cost of CHC can be up to Rs. 60 lakhs per CHC and that of Hi-tech Hub is Rs. 250 lakhs for each project. Financial assistance @ 80% of the project for the project costing up to Rs. 10 lakhs is also provided to the Cooperative Societies, Registered Farmer Societies, FPOs and Panchayats for setting up of village level Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs) for custom hiring of agricultural machines and equipments. Whereas, under the crop residue management scheme, the project cost in conjunction with SMAM @ 80% subsidy can be up to Rs.15 Lakhs.