

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1952
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23/12/2022

USE OF BIOMASS IN GENERATING NUTRIENT-RICH COMPOST

1952. SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that biomass generated during crop harvesting, residue from livestock rearing, and residue from slaughterhouses and food processing units can be used to generate nutrient-rich compost that improve the soil structure and enhance crop productivity; and
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, it is fact that biomass generated during crop harvesting, residue from livestock rearing, and residue from slaughterhouses and food processing units can be used to generate nutrient-rich compost that improves the soil structure and enhance crop productivity. Farmers are more often using biomass generated during crop harvesting in the farm as mulch or nutrient-rich compost, which increases the porosity and moisture holding capacity of the soil and improves the soil structure and hence enhances crop productivity.

ICAR has developed technologies to prepare nutrient rich compost by utilizing biomass generated during crop harvest, livestock waste and food wastes by composting. These are phosphocompost, vermicompost, bio-enriched compost, municipal solid waste compost, etc. ICAR also encourages adoption of *in-situ* (on farm) crop residue management, green manuring, brown manuring and also imparts training to educate farmers on composting and other organic farming practices which promote use of agricultural wastes.

Under GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) - DHAN initiative of Ministry of Jal Shakti Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants use cattle dung to produce Compressed Bio-Gas and the bi-product (fermented solid and liquid manure) and these solid and liquid fermented manure is recommended for use as compost. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare has notified these fermented manures under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985 and laid down their quality standards in FCO.

Under Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and organic farming, compost is recommended for use in all crops. Government has been promoting organic farming in the country since 2015-16 through the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) which encourage use of on-farm and off-farm compost, organic fertilizers and various others organic inputs.

Under PKVY and MOVCDNER scheme, farmers are provided financial assistance @ Rs 31000/ ha / 3 years and @ Rs 32500/ ha for 3 years for off farm /on –farm organic inputs including on-farm production of compost. Assistance is also provided under PKVY and MOVCDNER scheme @ Rs. 7500/ha for 3 years and @ Rs. 10,000/ha for 3 years for providing training to farmers which also promote use of off-farm and on-farm organic inputs including compost.
