

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3397**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31/03/2023

**USE OF BIO-FERTILIZERS**

3397. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote the use of bio-fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the volume of increase in crop yield achieved by the use of bio-fertilizers and pesticides during the last three years;
- (d) the course of action chalked out by the Government to augment the use of bio-fertilizers and pesticides in the country; and
- (e) the steps being taken to curtail the use of chemicals and promote the use of bio-fertilizers?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e): Government is promoting the use of bio-fertilizers under organic farming in the country through dedicated schemes namely Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) since 2015-16. Bio-fertilizers are also promoted through Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and are made integral part of package of practices developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agriculture Universities.

In order to promote use of bio-fertilizers, ICAR has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types under Network project on Soil Biodiversity-Bio-fertilizers. The ICAR imparts training to educate farmers on use of bio-fertilizers. Moreover, ICAR - Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) also conduct training for farmers on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to promote balanced use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Government is also implementing the 'Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine' through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers located in 28 States and 2 UTs with a mandate to popularize adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through training and demonstration in crops, inter-alia promotion of biological control approaches in crop protection technology with major emphasis on judicious use of chemical pesticide as a last resort, safety in use of pesticides, alternate tools for pest management viz; cultural, physical, mechanical methods of pest control as well as use of bio-pesticides and bio-control agents.

The study conducted by Indian Council of Agriculture Research under Network project on Soil Biodiversity-Bio-fertilizers has confirmed that yield of crop increases by the use of bio-fertilizers and pesticides.

Under Soil Health Management (SHM), assistance upto Rs 160 lakh /unit (200MT capacity) is provided to State Governments for establishment of bio-fertilizer production unit on 60:40 sharing between GoI and State Government.

To minimize use of pesticides and to augment use of bio-fertilizers Government is promoting organic farming under PKVY, MOVCDNER and various other schemes in the country which are given at **Annexure I**.

**Steps taken by government to augment use of bio/ fertilizers through various schemes.**

- **Paramparagat Krishi Vikash Yojana (PKVY):** Under PKVY Government is providing assistance of RS 50,000 /ha / 3 years out of which Rs 31,000 is provided directly through DBT for procurement/ on-farm production of organic inputs including bio-fertilizers.
- **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER):** Under MOVCDNER, farmers are provided Rs 32500/ha for 3 years for on-farm production/ procurement of organic inputs including bio-fertilizers.
- **Soil Health Management (SHM):** Government is providing Rs 160 lakh /unit for establishment of bio-fertilizer production unit (200MT capacity) to State Government which is shared on 60:40 ratios between GoI and State Government. 25 bio-fertilizer production units have been established under SHM.
- **National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP):** Financial assistance@ 50% subsidy to the tune of Rs. 300/- per ha is being provided for different components including bio-fertilizers, supply of Rhizobium culture/Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria (PSB)/ Zinc Solubilising Bacteria(ZSB)/ Azatobacter/ Mycorrhiza and vermi compost.
- **National Food Security Mission (NFSM):** Under NFSM, financial assistance is provided for promotion of Bio-Fertilizer (Rhizobium/ PSB) @50% of the cost limited to Rs.300 per ha.

Based on ICAR recommendation Government is promoting soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, bio-fertilizers etc.) of plant nutrients to improve soil health and fertility.

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