

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 975
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/02/2023

PROMOTION OF NATURAL PRODUCTS FOR SOLUTION OF AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED PROBLEMS

975. SHRIMATI SANGEETA YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering promotion and use of natural products for solution of agricultural and allied problems;
- (b) if so, the details of achievements made thereof;
- (c) the concrete achievements of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Act and National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) in this direction vis-vis the target set, institution-wise, year-wise in last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government for application of Indigenous Technical Knowledge in this regard in last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): To reduce environmental pollution emanating from use of chemical fertilizer and other health problems due to residual chemical pesticides, Government is promoting chemical free organic and natural farming for sustainable and healthy production of organic and natural products.

Organic farming is being implemented 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). PKVY is being implemented in all the States other-than North Eastern (NE) States, across the country. MOVCDNER scheme is implemented exclusively in the NE States. The schemes provide end to end support to farmers engaged in organic farming i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing and post harvest management support including processing. Under PKVY, farmers are provided financial assistance of Rs 50000/ha for 3 years out of which, Rs 31000/ ha / 3 years is provided directly to farmers through DBT for on-farm and off-farm organic inputs. Under MOVCDNER, an assistance of Rs. 46,575/ha for 3years is provided for creation of FPO, support to farmers for organic inputs, quality seeds/ planting material and training, hand holding and certification. Financial assistance @ Rs 32500/ ha for 3 years is provided to farmers for off farm /on – farm organic inputs under the scheme.

Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP), under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented since 2020-21 to promote traditional indigenous practices including natural farming. The scheme mainly emphasizes on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and other plant based preparations. Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification and residue analysis.

Details of achievements made under PKVY, MOVCDNER and BPKP:

PKVY scheme

- Total funds released INR 1758.48 crore
- Total 6.53 lakh ha area has been covered
- 16.19 lakh farmers have been benefitted in 32384 clusters.
- In addition, 1.23 lakh ha area brought under organic farming under Namami Gange Program.

MOVCDNER scheme

- Total funds released INR 878.17 crore
- 379 FPO/FPCs created covering 189039 farmers and 172966 ha area
- 367 Collection, Aggregation, Grading units, Custom Hiring Centres, 74 processing and pack house entities created under FPO/FPCs and private ownership
- 124 transportation vehicles provided to FPO/FPCs
- 8 NE states developed their own brands for organic products

BPKP scheme for Natural Farming under PKVY:

The BPKP scheme is being implemented in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh. 4.09 lakh hectare areas has been approved for Natural Farming under BPKP and an amount of Rs.55.99 crores has been released under BPKP to these 8 States.

(c): Achievements of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Act:

The PPVFR Authority has been established by Central Government as Statutory Body for grant of Intellectual Property Rights to Plant Breeders, Researchers and Farmers who have developed new and extant plant varieties.

- The Authority registers New, Extant and Essentially Derived Plant Varieties for registration. Farmer's variety forms a part of traditional varieties which as per Section 2 (I) are as follows:
 - (i) A variety which has been traditionally cultivated and evolved by the farmers in their fields or
 - (ii) A variety which is a wild relative or land race of a variety about which the farmers possess the common knowledge.
- The details of farmers varieties Application received category-wise / variety-wise for the last 3 years are as follows:

Applicant Category	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
Farmers	9	172	28	51	260

- The details of Registration Certification issues category-wise / variety-wise for the last 3 years are as follows:

Applicant Category	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
Farmers	118	91	128	94	431

National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) is a Government of India enterprise, under the Administrative control of Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR), established in 1953 under Section 25 (now Section 8) of the Companies Act. The main objective of NRDC is to promote, develop and commercialize technologies, know-how, inventions, patents and processes emanating from various National R&D institutions.

(d): ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) is engaged in documentation of associated indigenous knowledge from tribal and rural areas on collected germplasm. Till date the NBPGR has documented indigenous knowledge pertaining to food value, medicinal and other uses including indigenous method of conservation of information on several plants/species. During last three years the following information has been reported:

- *Cucumis melo* var. *alwarensis* locally known as Arya: It is a local vegetable being grown in Alwar and adjoining areas of Rajasthan and Haryana. Its use as vegetable was reported and documented.
- *Abelmoschus manihot* var. *tetraphyllus* locally known as ‘Sukhlai’ cultivated as organic clearant in Uttarakhand
- *Aaho* rice landrace and foxtail millet used for preparing a traditional beverage “*Jumin*” by *Nocte* tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.
- *Tupistraclarkei* locally known as “*Nakima*”, its unopened flower buds along with inflorescence form an important local vegetable, used as vegetable from Sikkim
- *Dioscorea esulenta* locally known as ‘Suthni’ reported use in religious ceremony during Chhat-Puja from Assam and Bihar
- *Blumealacera* locally known as ‘Kalhar’ reported from South Gujarat for preparation traditional cuisine
- *Coriander sativum* (Green coriander) local landraces namely *Kumbhraj*, *Mithidhana* and *Kudidhana* reported post harvest method to retain green colour and aroma in dried seed of coriander for use in beverages industry from Guna in Madhya Pradesh
- *Allium negianum* locally known as ‘*Pharan*’ used as seasoning spice and condiments by Bhotiya tribe of Niti valley of Chamoli district in Uttarakhand
- *Allium przewanskianum* locally known as ‘Janglipyaj’ used as seasoning spice and condiments by Bhotiya tribe of Niti valley of Chamoli district in Uttarakhand and Ladakh
- *Herpetospermum operculatum* locally known as ‘*Chai-patta*’ used as leafy vegetable in parts of South Sikkim and Phek district of Nagaland
- *Marsdenia macrophylla* locally known as “*An-kha-pui*” used as vegetable in parts of Mizoram and Manipur
