

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2568
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11/08/2023

ADOPTION OF HYDROPONICS FARMING

2568. SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

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

- (a) whether Government plans to initiate policy measures to develop hydroponics farming in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the present status and adoption of hydroponics in the country's agriculture sector across the States?

ANSWER

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Hydroponics is a viable alternative to traditional farming methods for soil less cultivation for enhancing productivity and water use efficiency. Hydroponics is a new concept in India and gaining popularity among entrepreneurs and innovative farmers, who are looking for sustainable and efficient ways to grow crops. At present, this technology is mostly confined to urban farming, rooftop gardening and commercial farming.

ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bengaluru (IIHR) has developed a variant of hydroponics, "Cocoponics" or the Soilless production of vegetables, using cocopeat as a substrate, which has been found to be comparatively more successful in many vegetable crops. The Institute has developed the complete production technology including a liquid nutrient formulation (Arka Sasya Poshak Ras) for soilless cultivation of zucchini, colour cabbage, chilli, brinjal, palak, amaranthus, coriander, cucumber, french bean, peas, cow pea, dolichos, ridge gourd, bottle gourd, okra, radish, tomato and exotic leafy vegetables viz., lettuce, parsley, broccoli, bok choy etc on arka fermented cocopeat (substrate) under open as well as in protected conditions. More than 3000 urban dwellers, cocopeat producers, hydroponics start up etc., were trained at ICAR-IIHR during last 3 years through various capacity building programmes.
