

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1303
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/12/2024

PROMOTION OF NATURAL FARMING

1303. SHRI MEDA RAGHUNADHA REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to achieve its goal of introducing one crore farmers to natural farming practices within the next two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are any national-level training programs, resources, or incentives being offered to farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government will specifically emphasize the promotion of natural farming in Andhra Pradesh, if so, the detailed plans for implementing these practices in the State; and
- (f) the details of support mechanisms in place to assist farmers in transitioning to natural farming methods?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (f): Yes sir, the Union Cabinet on 25th November 2024 approved the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) as a standalone centrally sponsored scheme with an overall outlay of ₹2481 crore. The Mission has a target to initiate 1 crore farmers to natural farming spreading over 7.5 Lakh ha land.

Under NMNF, extensive training programs on natural farming have been planned for the farmers. The Mission has provisions for training by KVKs, Agricultural Universities, local natural farming Institutions etc at natural farming model demonstration farms, on natural farming package of practices, preparation of natural farming inputs like Beejamrut, Jeevamrut etc., land preparation, pest & disease management, soil health management practices etc.

NMNF covers all the States and Union Territories (UT) including Andhra Pradesh. Under the scheme, interested States/UTs are required to submit an Annual Action Plan as per the NMNF guidelines to Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for funds to be released.

To assist farmers in transitioning to natural farming methods, the NMNF scheme provides for following support mechanisms:

- i. Extensive training programs for farmers by Scientists, Farmer Master Trainers from training institutions (KVK, Agricultural Universities, Local natural farming institutions) at approximately 2000 natural farming model demonstration farms.
- ii. Training of Scientists, Farmer Master Trainers, ATMA officials, State Government Officials etc at Centre's of Natural Farming.
- iii. Continuous hand holding support to farmers by 30,000 Krishi Sakhis, Farmer Master Trainers, ATMA Officials practicing natural farming farmers.
- iv. Output/ Performance based incentive for 18.75 Lakh trained farmers provided @ 4000 / acre / farmer / year for only two years (₹300 per month and ₹400 per year as one-time support) for upkeep of livestock, initiate natural farming practices, prepare natural farming inputs or purchase from bio-input resource centres, create awareness and train more farmers each to initiate natural farming.
- v. 10,000 need based Bio-input resource centres for easy access to locally produced natural farming inputs.
- vi. Easy certification system and national common brand for naturally grown chemical free produce for market access.
