

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 491
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

POLICY TO PROMOTE TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE

491. SHRI MAHENDRA BHATT:

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated any policy to promote traditional agriculture in the country; if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government has formulated any plan to support traditional agriculture in Uttarakhand; if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): Government has been encouraging traditional farming in the country through the various schemes viz. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP), a sub scheme under PKVY which is upscaled in mission mode as National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER).

Under PKVY Scheme, organic farming has been promoted since 2015-16 in all the States/UTs other-than North Eastern States. PKVY stresses on end-to-end support to farmers engaged in organic farming i.e. from production to processing, certification & marketing and post-harvest management training and capacity building and also focus on sustainable agriculture. Under this scheme, a total assistance of Rs. 31,500 per ha for a period of three years is provided for promotion of organic farming to cover components like Training & Capacity Building, Data Management, Participatory Guarantee System- India Certification, value addition, marketing and publicity. Out of this assistance, Rs. 15,000 per ha is provided for a period of three years to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer for on- farm /off –farm organic inputs.

Natural Farming has been promoted since 2019-20 under BPKP in limited areas. BPKP has been upscaled in Mission Mode as NMNF on 25.11.2024.

Natural Farming (NF) is understood as a chemical free farming practice involving livestock integrated natural farming methods and diversified crop systems rooted in the Indian traditional knowledge. NF recognizes the natural interdependence of soil, microbiome, plants, animals, climate and human agricultural requirements. In the next two years, NMNF will be implemented in 15,000 clusters in Gram Panchayats in 7.5 lakh ha area and reach 1 crore farmers. 10,000 need-based Bio-Input Resource Centers (BRCs) shall be developed to provide easy access to natural farming inputs to farmers.

Under MOVCDNER, assistance of Rs. 46,500/ha for 3 years is provided for creation of Farmers Producer Organization, support to farmers for organic inputs, quality seeds/ planting material and training, hand holding and certification. Out of this, assistance @ Rs. 32,500/ha for 3 years is provided to farmers for off -farm /on –farm organic inputs under the scheme including Rs. 15,000 as Direct Benefit Transfer to the farmers and Rs. 17,500 for the planting material to be given to the farmers by State Lead Agency in kind.

(b): Uttarakhand State has informed that traditional agriculture is promoted through PKVY. So far, Rs. 551.23 crore has been released for 7037 clusters covering 1.41 lakh ha and 3.01 lakh farmers since 2015-16 for Uttarakhand under the PKVY scheme. In addition to this, farmer's training, seed distribution, demonstration is being conducted to support traditional agriculture.
