

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 507**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

**PROMOTION OF BIO-FERTILIZERS**

507. SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:

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

- (a) the measures being taken by Government to promote biofertilizers in light of the detrimental effects of chemical fertilisers on human health;
- (b) the details of funding that has been allocated for the distribution of biofertilizers across the country over the past five years, State-wise;
- (c) the manner in which Government is supporting Research and Development (R&D) in biofertilizer technology; and
- (d) the manner in which Government will ensure the adoption of biofertilizers in the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): Government encourages the use of bio-fertilizers which are economical and eco-friendly source of nutrients and is considered an important component of organic farming and Integrated Nutrient Management.

Government is promoting the use of biofertilizers under Paramparagat Krishi Vikash Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) schemes. Under the PKVY scheme, farmers are provided financial assistance of Rs 15000/ ha for 3 years through DBT for on-farm and off-farm organic inputs including bio-fertilizer. Under Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), financial assistance @ Rs 32500/ ha for 3 years is provided to farmers for off farm /on –farm organic inputs including bio-fertilizer.

National Center of Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF) and its Regional Center of Organic and Natural Farming located at Ghaziabad, Nagpur, Bangalore, Imphal and Bhubaneswar are organizing various HRD trainings and awareness on organic farming and production and use of organic and bio-fertilizers.

(b): There is no specific schemes for distribution of biofertilizers across the country. However, a new item of innovative components, development of Biofertilizers network production units has been included under Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana.

(c): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed efficient strains of biofertilizers specific to different crops and soil types to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers in agricultural production. ICAR recommends integrated use of fertilizers and manures. Biofertilizers, both liquid and powdered form have been developed and promoted under All India Network Project on Soil Biodiversity. Biofertilizers for Phosphorus solubilization, Nitrogen fixation, Potassium and Zinc solubilization suitable for different crops across the country are developed and many of them are commercialized. The ICAR also imparts training on use of bio-fertilizers, organizes front-line demonstrations, awareness programs etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects.

To encourage farmers to use the bio-fertilizers, Government has taken various initiatives such as:

- i. The integrated use of bio-fertilizer, organic fertilizer and organic manure has been made integral part of package of practices developed by ICAR and State Agriculture Universities.
- ii. ICAR has developed liquid bio-fertilizer technology with higher shelf –life and also developed improved strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types.

(d): In order to ensure adoption of bio-fertilizers, the Government of India is focusing on quality under the Fertilizer Control Order (1985) besides training and awareness. Bio-fertilizers have been notified under FCO, 1985 and their quality standards have been specified which are required to be adhered mandatorily by the manufacturers. Government has notified 27 quality testing laboratory and initiated steps to accredit its laboratories to strengthen quality control activities.

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