

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2252
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/12/2025

**PROMOTING NATURAL FARMING PRACTICES AND EXTENSION SERVICES IN
HIMACHAL PRADESH**

2252. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government will consider a climate smart incentive for natural cereal growers in hills, recognising ecosystem services they provide and channel additional funds accordingly, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has created a national-level Natural Farming Market Access portal that links Himachal's natural cereal producers directly with buyers across the country reducing marketing costs and improving price realisation; and
- (c) the measures taken to strengthen extension services in Himachal so that agronomy experts can regularly advise farmers on best natural farming practices for cereals and help to meet certification standards?

ANSWER

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

- (a): The Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme-National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) from 25.11.2024 to promote Natural Farming in the country including the State of Himachal Pradesh. Natural Farming is a chemical free farming, involving livestock integrated natural farming methods and diversified crop systems rooted in the Indian traditional knowledge. Natural farming improves soil health, restores ecosystems and reduces input cost to the farmer to achieve greater climate resilience. Natural farming recognises the interdependence of the natural ecosystem amongst soil, water, microbiome, plants, animals, climate and human requirements. Under the scheme, an output based incentive of ₹4000/- per acre per year per farmer for 2 years (up to 1 acre per farmer) is provided to the farmers to practice natural farming, training, upkeep of livestock / preparation of natural farming inputs including purchase of mixing & storage containers, purchase of natural farming inputs from Bio-input Resource Centers etc.
- (b): No Natural Farming Market Access portal has been created by the Department.

(c): The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has also launched the Rajiv Gandhi Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana (RGPKKKY) which is State level scheme to promote natural farming. The scheme is being implemented in convergence mode with other Centrally Sponsored Schemes including NMNF. NMNF is implemented in cluster mode. Each cluster consist of 50 Ha of farms and approximately 125 farmers residing in close proximity who are engaged in natural farming. In Himachal Pradesh, there are 435 clusters. The clusters are attached to State Agriculture Universities (SAUs)/ Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) which provide training and guidance to farmers. At present there are 22 SAUs/ KVKs that supervise the scheme implementation in the clusters. Community Resource Persons are deployed to guide the farmers on natural farming clusters. Also, the clusters are assisted by Farmers Master Trainers, Scientist and Officials on the natural farming practices.

The Government has launched a portal for natural farming certification for all produces of natural farming in accordance with the natural farming standards. The natural farming certification namely “PGS-INDIA NATURAL” is completely an online certification system. Certification enables the natural farming practicing farmers to get premium price for natural products. For the State of Himachal Pradesh the registered number of active farmers is 907 covering area of 613.66 Ha and 148 certificates have been issued.
