

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 697**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023

**SCALING UP OF ECO-AGRICULTURE**

697. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government concurs with the view that there is an urgent need to scale up Bio-Fertilizers, Bio-Pesticides, Bio-Composts and Bio-Stimulants for transition to Regenerative/Eco-Agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives which are proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): It is agreed that there is an urgent need to scale up Bio-Fertilizers, Bio-Pesticides, Bio-Composts and Bio-Stimulants for transition to Regenerative/Eco-Agriculture and lesson the adverse affects of chemical fertilizers, pesticides on human health and ecology.

In order to facilitate regenerative/eco agriculture, ICAR suggests use of organic sources of plant nutrients (manure, bio-fertilizers, green manuring, in-situ crop residue recycling etc.) which are eco-friendly and not only provide nutrients for maintaining soil fertility but also improve soil physical & biological health vis-à-vis crop productivity. The Council has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types under the Network project on *Soil Biodiversity-Bio-fertilizers*. Liquid Bio-fertilizer technology with higher shelf-life has also been developed. Besides, the Council has developed technology to prepare various types of organic manures such as phosphocompost, vermincompost, bio-enriched compost, municipal solid waste compost, etc. from various organic wastes. Besides, Indian Council of Agricultural Research through its Plan Scheme "Network Project on Organic Farming" (NPOF) is undertaking

research to develop location specific organic farming package of practices for various crops and cropping systems.

Government has been promoting organic farming on priority in the country since 2015-16 through the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Under PKVY, States/UTs of the country are provided financial assistance of Rs. 50000/ha for 3 years out of which, Rs. 31000/ha/3 years is provided directly to farmers through DBT for on-farm and off-farm organic inputs. Whereas under MOVCDNER, an assistance of Rs. 46,575/ha for 3years is provided for creation of FPO, support to farmers for organic inputs, quality seeds/ planting material and training, hand holding and certification. Financial assistance @ Rs 32500/ ha for 3 years is provided to farmers for off farm /on – farm organic inputs under the scheme.

In order to ensure the availability of good quality bio-fertilizers, organic fertilizers and Bio- stimulants, the Government of India regulates its quality under the Fertilizer Control Order (1985). Government has notified 32 quality testing laboratory and initiated steps to accredit its laboratories to strengthen quality control activities. Government has also developed a web portal (<https://frs.dbtfert.nic.in/> ) for online registration of all kind of fertilizer to make registration more easy and simplified.

For encouraging production and use of organic fertilizers Government has approved Market development assistance @ Rs. 15,000/ tones for Fermented Organic Manure (FOM).

To incentivize the farmers to reduce the overall consumption of fertilizers for improving soil health and fertility and sustainable productivity, Government has announced “PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM)” which will be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers. Under this programme, 50% of subsidy savings will be passed on as a grant to the state that saves the money.

Under Mission Life programme Government is taking up various environment Initiatives to encourage natural and organic farming using organic and bio-fertilizer to reduce carbon foot print, reduced emission of Green House Gas (GHG) through reduction of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

The ICAR also imparts trainings, organizes front-line demonstrations, awareness programs etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects.

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 training namely One Day Farmers’ Training,

Two Days Training for Extension Officers/Staff, Two Days Training on PGS, 30 Days Certificate course, One day Jaivik evam Prakratik Kisan Sammelan for 500 participants, One Day Stakeholder consultations/ conferences on Natural Farming for 100 participants, Orientation Program on Natural Farming and awareness programmes across the country to disseminate information on organic and natural farming as well as on- farm production and use of various kinds of organic and bio-fertilizers. NCONF and RCONF also organize online awareness campaign and training programmes on organic and natural farming and production and use of organic and bio-fertilizers.

The Government of India has taken various steps to promote the use of bio pesticides. Simplified guidelines have been formulated by Registration Committee (RC) for the registration of bio pesticides. For bio-pesticides, provisional registrations are being granted under Section 9(3B) of the Insecticides Act, 1968 along-with the permission for commercialization during the provisional registration period of two years based on the confirmation of molecular identity of the strain from ICAR-National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (ICAR-NBAIM) and quality verification of the product from Central Insecticide Laboratory (CIL). Further, Ministry .of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare through its Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), ICAR and 36 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs) located in 28 States and 2 UTs, etc. conduct various training programmes such as Farmers Field Schools, two/five days HRD programmes, Kisan Goshthis, IPM Exhibitions and Seed Treatment Campaigns where awareness is created amongst farmers, Pesticide dealers/State agriculture functionaries on safe and judicious use of chemical pesticides, use of bio pesticides, bio control agents and botanical formulations as an alternative to chemical pesticides for pest management and usage as per doses given in label and leaflet approved by Registration Committee

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