

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 701
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH JULY, 2023

BIOLOGICAL SUBSTITUTES FOR CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS

701. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government agrees that biological substitutes for chemical fertilizers and pesticides can improve health of soil, human and planet, besides benefiting farmers;
- (b) if so, the details of the efforts being made for the development of these substitutes; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): It is agreed that biological substitutes for chemical fertilizers and pesticides can improve health of soil, human and planet, besides benefiting farmers.

In order to promote use of bio-fertilizers, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) 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'. Under this project ICAR has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizer specific to different crops and soil types, Liquid Bio-fertilizer technology with higher shelf life, bio-fertilizer consortia formulation with two or more bio-fertilizer strains, microbial enriched bio-compost and Zinc & Potassium Solubilizing Bio-fertilizers. The ICAR also imparts training to educate farmers on use of bio-fertilizers.

Government is promoting use of bio-fertilizers and organic fertilizers and bio-pesticides under organic farming through the scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North East Region (MOVCDNER)

since 2015-16. Under these schemes, farmers are primarily encouraged for organic cultivation using organic inputs and end to end support to farmers i.e. from production to marketing of organic produce is ensured. Hands-on training to farmers about on-farm production of organic fertilizers and its use are integral part of these schemes. Farmers are provided subsidy of Rs 31000/ ha / 3 years under PKVY and 32500/ ha/ 3 years under MOVCDNER for on-farm organic inputs including bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides as well as for procurement of off-farm organic inputs.

Under Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), States are provided assistance to promote Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of Chemical Fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers. Under SHC scheme various training demonstration programme as well as farmer's melas and workshops are organized.

In order to ensure the availability of good quality of 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 kinds of fertilizers to make registration easier 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 Initiative 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 fertilizer and pesticides.

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 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.
