

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 288
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05TH DECEMBER, 2023

SUSTAINABLE FARMING

288. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR RINKU:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote sustainable farming, organic farming and reduce the use of pesticides inputs in Punjab and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has initiated any policies in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measures for better market access and fair prices for agricultural produce in Punjab and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any proposal has been or is being taken by the Government to enhance the income and livelihoods of farmers in Punjab and if so, the details thereof, State/district-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): For promotion of organic farming, Government is implementing scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2015-16. PKVY is being implemented in all the States across the country including the state of Punjab, other-than North Eastern (NE) States. Where a separate scheme of Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Under the PKVY & MOVCDNER schemes, farmers are encouraged to adopt organic cultivation and are provided end to end support from production to value addition, certification and marketing of organic produce.

The Government of Punjab has informed that the state of Punjab is promoting PKVY scheme specifically for promotion of Organic farming. Punjab Agri Export Corporation Limited, which is a Government Institution of Punjab State, has been appointed as Nodal agency for Promotion of Organic farming in the state of Punjab since 2015. In the state of Punjab, 2000 farmers practice Organic farming in 5000 acre under the supervision of Punjab Agri Export Corporation Limited.

Under PKVY assistance is provided @ Rs.15.0 lakh / 1000 ha cluster for 3 years to facilitate farmers for direct marketing of their organic products to the buyers. In addition, assistance is provided @ Rs.53.0 lakh /1000 ha clusters for 3 years for branding, publicity, exhibition, trade fairs and other marketing initiatives to support direct buying of organic products from farmers. A dedicated web portal- www.Jaivikkheti.in/ has been created as online marketing platform for direct marketing of organic produce by the farmers to get a better price.

Government is also implementing the 'Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine' through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers located in 28 States and 2 UTs with a mandate to popularize adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through training and demonstration in crops, inter-alia promotion of biological control approaches in crop protection technology with major emphasis on judicious use of chemical pesticide as a last resort, safety in use of pesticides, alternate tools for pest management viz; cultural, physical, mechanical methods of pest control as well as use of bio-pesticides and bio-control agents.

Organic farming creates livelihood opportunities for farmers and enhances return. However, the Government of Punjab has informed that for marketing organic products of farmers, Punjab Agro buys organic products at premium prices above MSP. Organic products of Punjab Agro are also sold and exported under the brand "FIVE RIVERS". With regard to marketing of organic products, Punjab Agri Export Corporation Limited is providing market facilities to organic farmers for selling organic produce like fruits and vegetables and other organic products etc. at various places in the state of Punjab. Other than that Punjab Agri Export Corporation Limited has established the Organic huts for the marketing of organic products of farmers in various districts of Punjab.
