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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 593
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 06TH FEBRUARY, 2024

PROMOTING HYDROPONIC FARMING

593. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:

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

(a) whether the Government plans to integrate hydroponics farming into existing agricultural policies to ensure a comprehensive and cohesive approach;

(b) if so, the details of initiatives that are in place to educate farmers about the benefits of hydroponics;

(c) the details of the success of these outreach programmes in different States;

(d) whether the Government has introduced any financial incentives or subsidies for farmers engaging in hydroponics farming to encourage widespread adoption; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (e): The practice of growing plants without soil, with a nutrient solution or nutrient-enriched water, called Hydroponics, is generally carried out in protected environment like greenhouse or indoors, where temperature, humidity and light is closely controlled. Hydroponics is a new concept in India and is gaining popularity among entrepreneurs and innovative farmers for sustainable and commercial cultivation of crops, at places with limited natural resources. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has no proposal, at this stage, to integrate hydroponics farming into existing agricultural policies. However, under National Horticulture Board (NHB) i.e., a sub scheme of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH),

assistance is provided for using hydroponics method of farming as per cost norms of protected cultivation.

Further, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru is doing research work on this new technology to firm up comparative productivity, efficiency and viability. IIHR, Bengaluru has developed production technology for cocoponics which is soilless production of horticulture crops using cocopeat as substrate. It has developed liquid nutrient formulation of Arka Sasya Poshak Ras for soilless cultivation of vegetables like zucchini, cabbage, chili, brinjal and leafy vegetables etc.

IIHR is also providing hands on training to interested farmers and entrepreneurs on this technology. Hydroponics is gaining popularity among entrepreneurs and innovative farmers for sustainable and commercial cultivation of crops, at places with limited natural resources.

ICAR-Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow is also engaged in indigenous structural design of hydroponics and development of package of practices for sustainable and cost effective hydroponic crop production in sub tropical region. The Institute has evaluated four hydroponic systems (nutrient film techniques, Ebb and flow technique, drip hydroponic techniques and geoponics techniques) for high value vegetable production.

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