

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4339
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29TH MARCH, 2022

PROMOTION OF ZBNF

4339: SHRI NAMA NAGESWAR RAO:

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

- (a) whether the Government is committed to promote natural, chemical-free, organic and credit free farming in the country and if so, the details of Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) being practised in the country and the area of land covered under ZBNF for the last three years, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) the details of farm output and income per hectare under ZBNF; and
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to evaluate the effectiveness of ZBNF in increasing farm yield and ending the vicious debt cycle of small and marginal farmers and of so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Government is committed to promote natural, chemical-free, organic and chemical free farming in the country . Natural Farming through Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) introduced during 2020-21 as a sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) for the promotion of traditional indigenous practices including Natural Farming. The scheme mainly emphasises on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and other plant-based preparations.

Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification and residue analysis. Until now, under natural farming an area of 4.09 lakh ha area has been covered and a total fund of Rs. 4980.99 lakh has been released to 8 States while an area of 5.68 lakh ha have also been approved for 3 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is leading in terms of 1.0 lakh ha area under natural farming under BPKP.

The State –wise details of funds released, crops covered and area under BPKP is given at **Annexure – I**.

(b) and (c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research through ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram operates a research scheme of All India Network Programme on Organic Farming with 20 cooperating centres covering 16 States to develop package of practices for organic production of crops in cropping and farming systems perspective. The scheme involves 11 State Agricultural Universities, 8 ICAR institutes/centres and 1 special heritage university. Research on organic farming is being conducted through these centres. ICAR has initiated study on evaluation of natural farming in 8 major cropping system and the study in respect of yield, inputs cost, quality of produce and soil health are in progress.

Annexure- I

The State –wise details of funds released and area covered and crops under Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhthi (BPKP)

Sl. No	States	Released date	Area in Ha	Amount released (Rs in lakh)	Crops under natural farming
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.09.20	100000	750.00	Maize, Groundnut Cashew, Citrus, Palmoil, Tomato, Cotton, Paddy
2.	Chhattisgarh	09.12.20	85000	1352.52	Rice,Wheat, Pulses
3.	Kerala	30.09.20	84000	1336.60	Paddy, Banana, Leafy Vegetables, Cucurbits, Solanaceous varieties, Bhindi, Cool Season Vegetables, Spices and Condiments., Tubers Coconut based inter crops garden like fruit plans, cocoa, nutmeg, coffee, Cashew, Pepper, Coconut, Arecanut
4.	Himachal Pradesh	24.12.20	12000	286.42	Wheat, Maize, Peas, Apple, Stone fruits, Pulses, paddy, coriander and other leafy vegetables
5	Jharkhand	02.12.20	3400	54.10	Paddy, Wheat, vegetables , pulses, oilseeds
6.	Odisha	02.02.21	24000	381.89	Rice, Turmeric, Ginger and Pulses
7.	Madhya Pradesh	16.02.21	99000	787.64	Wheat, Rice, Pulses, Soyabean,
8.	Tamil Nadu	16.02.21	2000	31.82	Vegetable crops
Total			409400	4980.99	
