

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2543
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02ND AUGUST, 2022

DATA ON ORGANIC FARMING

2543. SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD:
SHRI HIBI EDEN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any Scheme to promote organic farming as a form of chemical-free farming, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise, especially in Kerala and Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to come up with a scheme to restore the past glory of Pokkali rice farming, a paddy variety unique to Kerala and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to promote Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) announced in the Union Budget 2019-2020 and if so, details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government sees any difference between ZBNF and Organic farming, if so, the details thereof including change from ZBNF to Organic farming; and
- (e) whether same organic village has been adopted for manure management and organic nitrogen harvesting through cluster approach and if so, the status of Integrated Manure Management; and
- (f) the extent to which the Government has been able to pass on the benefits of organic farming to the farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Government has been promoting organic farming through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) as a form of chemical free farming through cluster/FPO in the country since 2015-16. Both the schemes stress on end to end support to organic farmers i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing and post harvest management support including processing. PKVY is being implemented in all the States across the country including Kerala & Uttar Pradesh. MOVCDNER scheme is implemented only in NE States.

Under PKVY farmers 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. Financial assistance of Rs 20 lakh/ cluster of 1000 ha for 3 years is provided for value addition and infrastructure creation. In Kerala, since 2015-16, a total of Rs 26.17 crore has been released for 619 clusters for 12380 ha area benefitting 30950 farmers. Whereas, in Uttar Pradesh since 2015-16, a total of Rs 67.26 crore has been released for 1120 clusters for 22400 ha area benefitting 53972 farmers.

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. Need based assistance is provided for post harvest infrastructure and value addition up to maximum limit of Rs 600 lakh for integrated processing unit, Rs 37.50 lakh for integrated pack house, Rs 18.75 lakh each for refrigerated vehicle and cold store components, Rs 10.0 lakh for collection, aggregation, grading and custom hiring center and Rs 6.0 lakh for four wheeler/transportation.

(b): This is a state subject on that there is no such proposal has been received from Kerala under any scheme of this Ministry.

(c): In view of the announcement made in the Union Budget for 2019-2020 Government is implementing Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) since 2020-21 as a sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) for the promotion of agro-ecological farming system which have many variants and is based on sound ecological principles and traditional indigenous practices including Zero Budget Natural Farming. The scheme is generic in nature and gives freedom to farmers to adopt indigenous practices with emphasis on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and also promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and other plant-based preparations. Training through capacity building is integral part of the scheme. 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. An area of 4.09 lakh ha area has been covered under natural farming and a total fund of Rs. 4980.99 lakh has been released to 8 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under BPKP.

(d): In principle, Organic farming relies on bio-diversity, on farm bio mass management, rejuvenation of natural nutrient recycling, crop rotation, multiple cropping etc. and it allows use of off-farm purchased organic and biological inputs like bio-fertilizers, organic fertilizers, bio-pesticides etc.

Natural farming is based on four pillars namely Bijamrit, Jivamrita, Mulching and Waaphasa as described below:

Jivamrita: Jivamrita is a desi-cow dung –cow urine formulation applied to soil for natural nutrition to crop plant.

Beejamrita: It is prepared with cow dung, cow urine and lime water and used for seed treatment to protect seeds and seedlings from soil borne and seed-borne pathogens that commonly affect plants.

Mulching (Acchadhana): Three types of mulching namely soil mulching, mulching with crop residue and live mulching involving intercropping systems.

Whapahasa (Soil Aeration): Whapahasa is created in the inter particle space of the soil (filled with 50% vapour and 50% air) which is considered ideal in ZBNF to reduce water requirement for better plant growth.

ZBNF gives freedom from purchased inputs by not allowing use of any kind of off- farm inputs.

(e): Manure management and organic nitrogen harvesting through cluster approach is part of organic farming . Under PKVY and MOVCDNER schemes, organic farming is promoted under cluster approach and these strategies (Manure management and organic nitrogen harvesting) are integrated. Details of two schemes are given in reply of Part (a).

(f): Since 2015-16 a total of 16.19 Lakh farmers have been benefited with the formation of 32384 no of clusters covering 6.53 Lakh hac. area under PKVY. Whereas under MOVCDNER, 177 FPO's have been formed benefitting 1.56 lakh farmers covering 1.77 lakhs hac area.
