

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2489
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 06TH AUGUST, 2024

COW BASED NATURAL FARMING

2489. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH CHOUDHARY:

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

- (a) the details regarding the scheme of the Government to promote cow based natural farming;
- (b) the efforts made by the Government to increase production and consumption of Shree Anna; and
- (c) the details regarding the scheme of the Government to procure foodgrains produced by the farmers through natural farming?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): Government of India is promoting Natural Farming since 2019-2020 through Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati programme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana Scheme. The Scheme mainly emphasizes 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 Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati, natural farming is being promoted in cluster of 500 ha and Rs.12200.00 is provided per ha for three years, in which Rs. 2000 is provided as incentives to farmers through DBT.

(b): This Ministry is implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM)- Nutri Cereals in 28 States & 2 Union Territories (viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh of the country) for increasing production & productivity of millets. Under NFSM–Nutri Cereals assistance is given to the farmers, through the States/UTs for interventions like cluster demonstrations on improved package of practices, production, and distribution of seeds of high yielding varieties (HYVs)/hybrids, improved farm machineries/resource conservation machineries/tools, efficient water application tools, plant protection measures, nutrient management, soil ameliorants, cropping system based trainings to the farmers etc. The mission also provides support to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) & State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for technology back stopping and transfer of technology to the farmer under supervision of subject matter Specialists/Scientists.

(c): There is no scheme of the Government of India (GoI) to procure food grains produced by the farmers through natural farming. The Government's policy of procurement of food grains has broad objectives of ensuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers and availability of food grains to the weaker sections at affordable prices. Under this policy, stocks conforming to the GoI specifications which are offered by the farmers at Purchase centers are procured by the Government Agencies at MSP. However, if the farmers get prices better than MSP in open market, they are free to sell their produce.

GoI in consultation with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and respective State Governments formulates procurement plans to procure food grains (wheat/paddy/coarse grains) from the farmers every year during State Food Secretaries' meeting for Kharif and Rabi crop. Procurement operations are regularly reviewed by GoI which inter- alia includes evaluation of efficiency of FCI in procurement of grains and necessary corrective actions, whenever required, are taken.

As per Guidelines for procurement, allocation, distribution and disposal of coarse grains dated-07.12.2021/28.03.2022/09.08.2023 issued by Department of Food and Public Distribution, States are allowed to procure Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Barley & Ragi and six minor millets from farmers at Minimum Support Price(MSP) under central pool subject to the prior approval of GoI, in consultation with FCI. The whole quantity shall be distributed under TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System)/OWS (Other welfare Schemes) in the State/UT.

For increasing the procurement and consumption of coarse grains/millets, Department of Food and Public Distribution has revised the guidelines for allocation, distribution and disposal of coarse grains procured by the State Agencies/FCI and enhanced the distribution period to 6-10 months from earlier period of 3 months. Provision of inter-state transportation of surplus millets through FCI had also been incorporated. In order to further widen scope of procurement of coarse grains/millets, it has been decided to allow the procurement of following minor/pseudo millets for 3 years (from 2023) at cost based on the MSP of Ragi:

- Minor Millet- Foxtail Millet (Kangani/Kakun), Proso Millet (Cheena), Kodo Millet (Kodo), little millet (Kutki)
- Pseudo Millets-(Buck-wheat (kuttu) and Ameranthus (Chaulai).
