

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 24
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH FEBRUARY, 2025

NATIONAL MISSION ON NATURAL FARMING

*24. SHRI NARESH GANPAT MHASKE:

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed for adoption of natural farming practices in the country under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the establishment of Bio-input Resource Centres will ensure timely access to natural farming inputs for farmers and its impact on the cost of cultivation and soil health, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the training of farmers in natural farming practices and the deployment of Krishi Sakhis/ Community Resource Persons will significantly accelerate the adoption of natural farming methods and if so, the outcomes thereof;
- (d) the impact of NMNF's focus on local agro-ecological principles on climate sustainability and the method adopted for measuring the outcomes thereof; and
- (e) whether the integration of NMNF with existing schemes and local market linkages improves branding and marketing opportunities for farmers' produce and if so, the details of measures planned for effective convergence thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 24 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 04TH FEBRUARY, 2025 REGARDING “NATIONAL MISSION ON NATURAL FARMING”

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Union Cabinet approved the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) on 25th November 2024 as a centrally sponsored scheme with an overall outlay of ₹2481 crore (Government of India share of ₹1584 crore and States' share of ₹897 crore). The aim of the Mission is to promote natural farming through extensive training programmes on natural farming package of practices, preparation of natural inputs, etc.

The scheme envisaged the formation of 15,000 natural farming clusters in 7.5 lakh Ha area in various States/ Union Territories. Each cluster shall be formed of contiguous area of about 50 Ha and approximately 125 farmers. The focus of the scheme is on the on-farm production of natural farming inputs by the farmers. 10,000 need-based Bio-input Resource Centres will support with easy availability of natural farming inputs for the farmers of these clusters, thus reducing the dependency on externally purchased chemical inputs. The usage of natural inputs significantly enhances the soil fertility and promotes overall ecological balance.

(c): The scheme envisages deployment of two Krishi Sakhis/ CRPs in each natural farming cluster to handhold the farmers on natural farming practices and to generate community wide awareness by involving Self Help Groups, Anganwadi, Gram Sabha, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, etc. Under the Scheme, extensive training programmes for farmers, scientists, Farmer Master Trainers, Krishi Sakhi/ Community Resource Person (CRP), etc. are envisaged. These training programmes for the farmers and deployment of Krishi Sakhis/ CRPs in the clusters are aimed to foster adoption of natural farming.

(d): Natural Farming principles and practices aim to enhance climate sustainability in agriculture by promoting location-specific agro-ecological practices that reduce dependency on chemical inputs and strengthen natural ecosystems. It also focuses on improving soil health and moisture content by encouraging in-situ soil organic matter generation through multi-crop systems, biomass mulching, etc.. Natural farming also enhances biodiversity by fostering the presence of beneficial insects, birds and

microorganisms that support natural pest control and pollination. With the improvement in soil health, natural farming practices enhance agricultural resilience, thereby helping farmers cope with extreme climate events.

(e): For impactful outcome of the mission, convergence with various schemes of both Central and State Governments, such as other schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Ayush, Ministry of Cooperation and Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, is envisaged. The Mission also provides for a simple participatory certification system and creation of a common national brand for naturally grown chemical free produce to significantly boost the market access & linkages and facilitate wider adoption of natural farming.
