

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4103
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH MARCH, 2025

PROMOTING ORGANIC FARMING AND MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES

4103.DR. AMAR SINGH:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government is taking any steps to support small and marginal farmers in Fatehgarh Sahib, particularly with respect to MSP, irrigation and crop diversification, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any plan to promote organic farming and modern agricultural techniques in the region, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the various steps taken by the Government to make agriculture free from toxic chemicals; and

(d) the various steps being taken by the Government to promote crop diversity?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (d): The Government is taking several steps to promote agriculture and support farmers across the country including small and marginal farmers in Fatehgarh Sahib with respect to MSP, irrigation and crop diversification. The details are given below.

(i) Every year, Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated agricultural crops for the country as a whole including Punjab, based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned. The Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced the pre-determined principle to keep MSPs at levels of one and half times of the cost of production. Accordingly, Government had increased MSPs for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other Commercial crops with a minimum return of 50 percent over all India weighted average cost of production from year 2018-19 onwards.

(ii) Government is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the Country, including Punjab, from the year 2015-16. During 2015-16 to 2021-22, PDMC implemented as a component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). From the year 2022-23, the scheme is being implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY). Under the scheme, Government provides financial assistance @ 55% for Small and Marginal Farmers and @ 45% for Other Farmers for installation of Drip and Sprinkler systems. Subsidy support to each farmer is up to 5 hectares. The beneficiary is eligible for subsidy again for the same land after the end of seven years for installation of Micro Irrigation. Physical and financial progress under PDMC scheme in the State of Punjab is given in table below:

Year	Central Assistance released (₹ in Crore)	Area covered under Micro Irrigation(in Ha)
2015-16	43.00	1799
2016-17	1.18	1950
2017-18	0.00	600
2018-19	9.00	507
2019-20	0.00	942
2020-21	0.00	742
2021-22	0.00	3719
2022-23	3.75	3039
2023-24	6.00	2864
2024-25 (so far)	5.50	657
Total	68.43	16819

(iii) The Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) is being implemented in the original Green Revolution States including Punjab (19 districts including Fatehgarh Sahib) to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternate crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals (Shree Anna), cotton and agro forestry. Under Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), the assistance is given through state governments to all category farmers for different interventions, which covered under CDP, are Alternate Crop Demonstrations, Farm Mechanization and Value Addition, Site Specific Activities and Contingency for awareness, training, implementation, monitoring, etc.

(b) & (c): Government is promoting organic farming in the country through the scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), a component of Pradhan Mantri- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) including the State of Punjab. The PKVY scheme provides end-to-end support to organic farmers i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing in a cluster based approach. The primary focus of the scheme is to form organic clusters in a cluster where preference is given to small and marginal farmers.

Under PKVY scheme, States/UTs are provided financial assistance of ₹ 31,500/ha over 3 years in the organic clusters, out of which, ₹15,000/ha is provided directly to farmers through DBT for on-farm and off-farm organic inputs including biofertilizers, ₹4,500/ha for marketing, packaging, branding, value addition etc., ₹3,000/ha for certification and residue analysis and ₹9,000/ha for training and capacity building. One farmer can avail assistance for a maximum 2 ha area.

Government of Punjab has informed that 495.49 ha area has been covered under organic farming involving 473 farmers in Fatehgarh Sahib District under the PKVY scheme.

In order to promote use of bio-fertilizers, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research(ICAR) has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types under the Network project on 'Soil Biodiversity-Bio-fertilizers'. Under this project ICAR has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizer specific to different crops and soil types, Liquid Bio-fertilizer technology with higher shelf life, bio-fertilizer consortia formulation with two or more bio-fertilizer strains, microbial enriched bio-compost and Zinc & Potassium Solubilizing Bio-fertilizers. The ICAR also imparts training to educate farmers on use of bio-fertilizers.