

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 136
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09TH DECEMBER, 2025

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF NATURAL AND ORGANIC FARMING

*136. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has carried out the assessment for the impact of natural and organic farming on soil health;
- (b) the States where such models are being implemented on a large scale; and
- (c) the schemes being implemented to promote natural and organic farming in Rajasthan?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 136 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 09TH DECEMBER, 2025 REGARDING “IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF NATURAL AND ORGANIC FARMING”

(a): Indian Council of Agricultural Research through All India Network Programme on Natural Farming is carrying out research programme with 20 cooperating centres covering 16 States to develop package of practices for Natural farming. The programme involves 11 State Agricultural Universities, 8 ICAR institutes/centres and 1 deemed to be university. The research outcome shows measurable improvements in soil health indicators. Over 2–3 years, natural farming plots showed rising soil organic carbon (SOC) levels – for example, SOC increased from ~0.90% to 1.15% in Himalayan trials. Natural farming soils had significantly higher microbial counts and diversity indices than chemical-fed soils. Richer microbial communities (e.g. more beneficial bacteria, fungi, and actinomycetes) and more balanced microbial evenness under natural farming was observed, indicating a healthier soil ecosystem developing over time. This boost in soil biota and organic matter under natural farming improves nutrient cycling and soil structure, laying the foundation for sustained fertility and yield stability. The research outcome also shows that Organic farming packages for 80 cropping systems is suitable for 16 States, along with varieties suitable for organic farming in major crops. Organic farming significantly enhanced soil health, with SOC levels consistently higher than both inorganic and transitional (“towards organic”) systems across all crop categories.

(b) & (c): The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) is being implemented across the country including Rajasthan. The NMNF targets to initiate Natural Farming in 7.5 Lakh Ha area. An output based incentive of ₹4000/- per acre per year per farmer for 2 years is provided in NMNF to encourage farmers to practice natural farming, train more farmers, upkeep of livestock, preparation of natural farming inputs including purchase of mixing & storage containers, etc. Under the mission, 1,800 clusters have been formed covering 90,000 hectares area in the State of Rajasthan to promote natural farming. Till date 1.89 lakh farmers have been enrolled and 164 Bio-input Resource Centre (BRC) have been set up to provide easy availability of natural farming bio-inputs such as Jeevamrit, Beejamrit etc. in the State.

Under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), assistance of Rs. 31,500 per ha in 3 years is provided for promotion of organic farming. Out of this, assistance of Rs. 15,000 per ha is provided to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer for on- farm /off –farm organic inputs. This Scheme is also implemented in Rajasthan in 10,057 clusters covering 2.01 lakh hectares area benefitting 2.86 lakh farmers.