

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 331
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2026

PROMOTION OF NATURAL FARMING

*331. SMT. KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT:

SMT. SANJNA JATAV:

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

- (a) the details of the initiatives undertaken by the Government to promote natural farming practices in the country during the last three years, State and district-wise, particularly in Jharkhand, Karnataka, Alwar, Deeg and Bharatpur districts under the Bharatpur Lok Sabha Constituency and Shahdol and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituencies;
- (b) the total area brought under natural farming and the number of farmers adopting such practices, State and gender-wise, including Jharkhand, Odisha, Karnataka, Palghar district of Maharashtra and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of the impact of natural farming on crop productivity, input costs and farmers' income;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State and district-wise including Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency; and
- (e) the details of the future action plan for promoting natural farming in Kutch district, including the training, incentives and marketing support being provided to farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF 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. 331* DUE FOR ANSWER ON 11TH AUGUST, 2026 REGARDING “PROMOTION OF NATURAL FARMING”.

(a) & (b): The Union Cabinet approved the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) on 25th November 2024 to promote Natural Farming. Till date, 24,102 clusters have been formed covering 12.60 lakh Ha area, 26.76 lakh farmers enrolled, 8,100 Bio-Input Resource Centres (BRCs) established and 40,182 Krishi Sakhi/Community Resource Persons (CRPs) deployed under the Mission. State/UT wise details including the States of Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Odisha, Karnataka and Maharashtra is given at **Annexure – I**. District wise data as well as gender data is not maintained centrally.

The details of NMNF in the Bharatpur, Shahdol and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency and Palghar District till date is as under:

	Lok Sabha Constituency	District	Area Covered (Ha.)	Farmers benefitted
1.	Bharatpur	Alwar	2200	5500
		Deeg	2200	5500
		Bharatpur	2150	5375
2.	Shahdol	Shahdol	1250	3125
		Anuppur	2500	6250
		Umaria	1250	3125
		katni	1250	3125
3.	Nabarangpur	Nabarangpur	1150	2875
4.	--	Palghar	1300	3250

(c) & (d): Indian Council of Agricultural Research has initiated a study in 2020-21 through All India Network Programme on Natural Farming (previously AINP-Organic Farming) with 20 cooperating centres covering 16 States to evaluate 8 major cropping systems. Study also includes development of package of practices under Natural farming. The Study involves 11 State Agricultural Universities, 8 ICAR institutes/centres and 1 deemed to be university. Study shows that if natural farming is adopted with the correct techniques and in a balanced manner, yields improve. Experiences of many farmers have also reported improving soil health improved crop quality, taste, and long-term yield. Furthermore, reducing chemical costs increases farmers' net profits. Mulching in natural farming helps maintain soil moisture, control weeds, and increase organic matter in the soil. This increases the activity of soil microorganisms and improves soil health. Multi-cropping increases biodiversity in the field, reduces the incidence of pests and diseases, and improves nutrient utilization. State wise districts covered in the study are at **Annexure-II**.

The findings of the Study are as below;

- (i) Under the network research, crop system-based natural farming packages have been developed for various states, such as groundnut + sesame – fennel + cabbage (Rajasthan and Gujarat), soybean + maize – wheat + mustard (Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh), and cassava (Kerala).
- (ii) In Bajaura (Himachal Pradesh), Almora (Uttarakhand) and Gangtok (Sikkim), the average system productivity (soybean equivalent) of 6475 kg/ha/year was

recorded in the soybean + maize – vegetable pea + coriander (green leaf) crop system (in 5 years) under completely natural farming, which was about 5 percent higher than organic farming/integrated crop management.

- (iii) In Bhopal and Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) and Raipur (Chhattisgarh), the average system productivity (soybean equivalent) of 3346 kg/ha/year was recorded in the soybean + maize – wheat + mustard crop system (in 5 years), which was found to be equivalent to integrated crop management and organic farming.
- (iv) S.K. In Nagar (Gujarat), Ajmer, and Udaipur (Rajasthan), the average system productivity (cowpea equivalent) of 9209 kg/ha/year was recorded in the cowpea + maize/peanut + sesame – fennel + cauliflower/cabbage cropping system (in 5 years) under complete natural farming. This was found to be comparable to integrated crop management.
- (v) Natural farming (NF) management has shown a clear improvement in soil health indicators. Soil organic carbon (SOC) levels increased in natural farming fields over a period of 2–3 years. For example, in trials conducted in the Himalayan regions, SOC increased from approximately 0.90% to 1.15%. The number and diversity index of microorganisms in natural farming soils was found to be higher than in soils cultivated with chemical fertilizers. The abundance and balanced distribution of beneficial bacteria, fungi, and actinomycetes were observed, indicating the development of a healthy soil ecosystem over time. This increase in organic matter and microorganisms in the soil under natural farming improves nutrient cycling and soil structure, laying a strong foundation for long-term soil fertility and crop production sustainability.

Further, NITI Aayog Assessment Report states that approximately 91.2% of farmers adopting natural farming experience, increased crop productivity and significantly improved soil health. 90.1% of farmers reported that adopting natural farming has reduced input costs (production costs).

(e): Under NMNF, cluster level training is conducted for Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and farmers on the practices of natural farming. Such CRPs and farmers are trained by the Scientists and Farmer Master Trainers (FMTs) at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), State Agricultural University (SAU) & Local Natural Farming Institution (LNFI) about the practices and benefits of Natural Farming. The scheme also includes a provision for an Output Based Incentive of ₹4000/- per acre, per year to a farmer for 2 years (up to 1 acre per farmer). As reported by the State of Gujarat, 46 clusters have been formed covering 5750 acre area and benefiting 5750 farmers in Kutch district.

Annexure - I

State/UT wise details of area brought under natural farming and the number of farmers adopting such practices till date

S. No.	State/ UT	Farmer Enrolment	Area covered (in Ha)
1	Andaman & N Islands	500	200.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	655659	434156.56
3	Arunachal Pradesh	22982	8805.32
4	Assam	8234	4884.10
5	Bihar	62565	26855.31
6	Chhattisgarh	73215	31505.42
7	Delhi	375	150.00
8	Goa	1623	630.89
9	Gujarat	151108	61919.23
10	Haryana	13600	10703.21
11	Himachal Pradesh	76628	27852.32
12	Jammu & Kashmir	26591	10905.05
13	Jharkhand	14312	5686.88
14	Karnataka	154401	58136.80
15	Kerala	19638	7560.11
16	Ladakh	621	175.62
17	Madhya Pradesh	197661	91199.66
18	Maharashtra	274875	109950.00
19	Manipur	16077	6364.63
20	Meghalaya	19517	3223.40
21	Mizoram	37878	15800.14
22	Nagaland	35373	14423.12
23	Odisha	75371	30148.40
24	Puducherry	772	256.25
25	Punjab	6418	2122.48
26	Rajasthan	266596	112865.58
27	Tamil Nadu	8072	3509.91
28	Telangana	77205	39699.13
29	Tripura	33643	11188.99
30	Uttar Pradesh	290500	116200.00
31	Uttarakhand	29782	10066.55
32	West Bengal	25000	3600.00
	Total	26,76,792	12,60,745.03

Crop productivity and soil organic carbon status of major cropping systems under natural farming.

Sl. No.	ICAR Institute/university	Cropping systems evaluation under natural farming
1.	Hill Agricultural Research and Extension Centre, CSHPKV, Bajaura (Himachal Pradesh)	Soybean + maize (2:1) -vegetable pea+ green coriander (2:1)
2.	ICAR-RC-North Eastern Hill region, Sikkim Centre, Gangtok (Sikkim)	
3.	ICAR-Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora (Uttarakhand)	
4.	ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	Soybean + maize (4:2) – wheat + mustard (8:2)
5.	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)	
6.	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)	
7.	ICAR-NRC on Seed Spices, Ajmer (Rajasthan)	Cowpea + maize (4:2) / Groundnut + Sesame (6:2)– Fennel + cauliflower/cabbage (2:1)
8.	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur (Rajasthan)	
9.	Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, SK Nagar (Gujarat)	
10.	ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)	Cassava +vegetable cowpea (1:2) - greengram
11.	Dr Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth Regional Station, Karjat (Maharashtra)	Rice + <i>dhaincha</i> (3:1)-maize+cowpea (fodder) (2:1)
12.	Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi (Jharkhand)	
13.	Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, Narendrapur (West Bengal)	
14.	ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut (Kerala)	Turmeric + cowpea (1:1) - greengram
15.	ICAR-RC-North Eastern Hill Region, Umiam (Meghalaya)	
16.	ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram (Uttar Pradesh)	Maize + cowpea (fodder) (1:1) – wheat + chickpea (2:2, bed planting)
17.	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (Punjab)	
18.	GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (Uttarakhand)	
19.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	Cotton + green gram (1:1) - sorghum +chickpea (1:1)
20.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (Karnataka)	