

on cole crops and Shoot and Fruit Borer in Brinjal crops have been reported in Punjab.

(c) to (e) Although there is no negative impact of chemical fertilizers on farming in Punjab, the farmers are advised for balanced and judicious use of chemicals and fertilizers as per recommendations and soil test basis.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also recommends soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients. In addition, split application and placement of fertilizers and nitrification inhibitors, growing leguminous crops and use of resource conservation technologies are advocated.

Government of India is implementing a scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest management Approach in India" by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme. Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory.

The Non-Chemical measures like cultural, mechanical, and biological control are being popularized under IPM Scheme among the farming community to reduce the use of chemical pesticides.

Under the Human Resource Development programme of IPM, Farmers Field Schools, long and short duration training programmes are being held to empower the farmers and State Extension Functionaries about IPM.

Pest and Disease Surveillance and Monitoring programmes are undertaken to forewarn likely pest and disease build up in different crops.

Development of horticulture

1247. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned Rs. 863 crore to the Department of Horticulture and allocated separate funds under the NHM;

(b) whether this allocation helped the Department in improving horticulture, the details thereof;

(c) the new schemes undertaken by the Department to develop horticulture in the country; and

(d) how helpful have the schemes been in bringing about a change in growth of horticulture crops and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The Central Sector Scheme of National Horticulture Mission is under implementation since 2005-06 and during 2012-13 an amount of Rs. 1104.40 crore has been allocated under the scheme. The scheme is aimed towards providing holistic growth of horticulture sector through adopting end-to-end approach covering production, post harvest management, primary processing and marketing.

(c) A new scheme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) has been initiated since 2011-12 as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for addressing all concerns related to vegetable sector. The scheme is being implemented in one major urban centre in each State which is either the State capital or any other city having a population of one million or above, except Jammu and Kashmir where Jammu and Srinagar have been taken up under the scheme. Besides, Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Horticulture Board (NHB) are ongoing schemes for development of horticulture in the country.

(d) Various horticulture schemes have enhanced horticulture production from 170 million MT in 2004-05 to 257 million MT in 2011-12, registering an annual growth rate of about 7%.

Remunerative price for cotton

†1248. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cotton price was lower this year in comparison to last year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether one of the major reasons behind the suicides by farmers was not getting fair price for the cotton produce; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure that farmers get remunerative price for cotton?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.