

foodgrain production, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Schemes/Programmes, namely; National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSH&F), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) etc. for promotion of organic farming and integrated nutrient management through judicious use of chemical fertilizer, organic manure and bio-fertilizer for improving soil health and its fertility across the country.

Decline in sugarcane sowing area

2200. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the area under sugarcane sowing has declined by 5.24 per cent so far this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that farmers have sown sugarcane in 40.30 lakh hectares as on May 8, 2013 as against 45.54 lakh hectares an year ago; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) As on May 8, 2013, area coverage under sugarcane was 40.30 lakh hectares as compared to 45.54 lakh hectares an year ago *i.e.* a decline of 5.24 lakh hectares. However, as per latest information available as on August 23, 2013, area coverage under sugarcane now stands at 48.53 lakh hectares as compared to 50.06 lakh hectares an year ago *i.e.* a decline of about 1.53 lakh hectares.

Decline in agricultural growth rate

2201. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the rate of growth of food production has decreased from 2011-12;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and