

National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) is under implementation since 2014-15 in 27 states including North-Eastern States for increasing production and productivity of oilseeds including area expansion of oil palm.

Under both NFSM-pulses and NMOOP financial assistance is available for organizing cluster demonstration and Front Line Demonstration (FLD) of improved technologies, supply of quality seeds including seeds minikits of new varieties, production inputs like soil ameliorants, micro nutrients, bio-fertilizers, plant protection chemicals including bio-agents, farm machineries, water saving devices and capacity building of farmers/extension workers to increase the production and productivity of the pulses and oilseeds.

Recommendation of expert committee on pesticides

1611. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee constituted in 2015 on pesticides has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made therein and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) No expert committee on pesticides has been constituted in 2015.

(b) Question doesn't arise.

Pan-Indian trading portal market for agricultural produce

1612. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Pan-Indian trading portal market in the field of agriculture;

(b) how far will this help farmers in the country to get a good price for their crops; and

(c) whether this has since been launched, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) The Government has approved a scheme for setting up of National Agriculture

Market (NAM) through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) on 01.07.2015 with a budget of ₹ 200 crore and to be implemented during 2015-16 to 2017-18.

The scheme envisages implementation of the National Agriculture Market (NAM) as a Pan-Indian trading portal that would be deployable in regulated wholesale markets in States/UTs desirous of joining the e-platform. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) will implement the national e-platform in 585 selected regulated markets and will cover 400 mandis in 2016-17 and 185 mandis in 2017-18. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) will meet the cost of software and its customization for the States. DAC&FW will also give grant as one time fixed cost for related equipment/infrastructure subject to a ceiling of ₹ 30.00 lakhs per Mandi. State Governments will propose the regulated markets which are to be integrated with NAM. The national e-platform is to be launched on 14th April, 2016.

The NAM e-market is expected to link farmers with markets across the State/country. It will also reduce information asymmetry between buyers and sellers, lead to real time price discovery, encourage greater transparency in auction processes, better realization based on quality of produce and facilitate online and immediate payment to the farmers. The farmer will thus be enabled to opt for the most remunerative option based on access to information on the best price that his produce can fetch on the e-portal from across the State/country.

Adopting organic methods in cultivation

1613. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for adopting organic methods in cultivation; and

(b) how many soil testing laboratories are working in the country, as on date, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) Government is promoting organic farming through various schemes/programmes under the National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) etc. The pattern of assistance is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) State-wise soil testing laboratories working in the country is given in the Statement-II.