

CACP considers both A2+FL and C2 costs while recommending MSPs. CACP reckons only A2+FL cost for return. However, C2 costs are used by CACP primarily as benchmark reference costs (opportunity costs) to see if the MSPs recommended by them at least cover these costs in some of the major producing States.

The Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced the pre-determined principle to keep MSP at levels of one and half times of the cost of production. Accordingly, Government has increased the MSPs for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other commercial crops with a return of atleast 50 per cent of cost of production for the agricultural year 2018-19. During 2019-20 also, Government has increased the MSP of all mandated kharif and rabi crops in line with the principle of fixing the MSP with a return of atleast 50 per cent of the cost of production.

Burning of crop residue

671. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, inspite of ban by the National Green Tribunal, crop residue burning is still going on in some States and is spreading to other States resulting in severe pollution, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any meeting of heads of State Governments have taken place in recent past to avoid such burning which has become a common feature every year and whether Government propose to put hefty fines on errant farmers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) Paddy stubble burning is mainly practiced in Indo-Gangetic plains of the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to clear the fields for Rabi crop sowing. The farmers are resorting to paddy stubble burning because of very short time window between the harvesting of paddy crop and the sowing of next crop. As per satellite data, overall about 18.8% and 31% reduction in number of paddy residue burning events were observed in the year 2019 as compared to that in 2018 and 2017, respectively in these three States. As informed by other States, the severities of uncontrolled crop residue burning incidences are not significant.

(b) The fire events in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have been monitored through the satellite remote sensing and through several meetings and

weekly video conferencing with the States authorities at various levels. The Central Government does not have any proposal for imposing hefty fines on the errant farmers. However, the State Governments are imposing Environmental Compensation as per the directions of National Green Tribunal.

Impact of urea based fertilizers on agricultural land

672. SHRI M.D. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken studies on the harmful impact of urea based fertilizers on soil;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when Government would undertake such studies; and

(c) whether Government is considering mass scale production and implementation of eco-friendly organic alternatives for urea based fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under All India Coordinated Research Project on 'Long-Term Fertilizer Experiments' in different centres located in different states on various soil types (fixed locations) under dominant cropping systems revealed that imbalanced use of fertilizer over the years may cause multi-nutrient deficiencies in soil affecting soil health and crop productivity. Even in plots receiving only NPK fertilizers, the deficiency of micro and secondary nutrients is observed. The limiting nutrients do not allow the full expression of other nutrients, thereby, lowering the fertilizer responses and crop productivity. Highest decline in crop yield was observed in plots receiving only nitrogen.

(c) To encourage the production and implementation of eco friendly organic inputs/ fertilizers/bio-fertilizers, the Government of India is promoting organic farming and providing incentives/ assistance to the farmers for the organic inputs under the following schemes:

- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):

Assistance of ₹ 50,000 per hectare for 3 years is provided, out of which ₹ 31,000 (62%) is given to the farmers directly through DBT, for inputs (bio-fertilizers, biopesticides, vermicompost, botanical extracts, etc.) production/ procurement, post harvest management etc.