

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-496
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/02/2021

OVERUSE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES IN FARMING

496. Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken serious cognizance of the overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides by the farmers, which is hazardous to human and animal lives;
- (b) if so, the concrete measures that are being taken by Government to convince the farmers to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and instead go for organic farming, since the organic produce fetches better price in the market; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to simplify the procedure for obtaining the certificate for organic farming, keeping illiterate or moderately literate farmers in mind?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Government has taken the following measures to reduce overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides by the farmers and promotion of organic farming:

(i) **Soil Health Card Scheme** is implemented to provide soil test based information on nutrient status to farmers along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and fertility.

(ii) **Indian Council of Agriculture (ICAR)** recommends soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, bio-fertilizers etc.) of plant nutrients for judicious use of chemical fertilizers and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers. In addition, split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing N-fertilizers and nitrification inhibitors, growing leguminous crops and use of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) are also advocated to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers. The ICAR also imparts training, organizes front-line demonstrations etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects.

(iii) Government is implementing a central sector scheme, “Monitoring of Pesticides Residues at National Level” to determine the levels of pesticide residues in food commodities with the participation of various NABL laboratories. Reports of Pesticides

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Residue Analysis are shared with State Governments to undertake awareness campaigns and organize Farmer Field Schools in the districts where samples are above prescribed pesticide residues limit to educate farmers regarding the uses as per approved labels and leaflets

(iv) Government is implementing the 'Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine' with a mandate to popularize adoption of Integrated Pest Management through trainings and demonstration in crops. Under this scheme, farmers are being made aware about the judicious use of chemical pesticides and use as per the prescription given in the label and leaflets. It encompasses pest control techniques such as cultural, mechanical and biological with minimum dependence on chemical pesticides.

(v) The Government has established 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers in 28 States and two Union Territory in the country which imparts trainings to farmers and State Extension Officers through Farmers Field Schools, short and long duration trainings programmes on pest management strategies.

(vi) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain for North Eastern Region (MOVCNDR) schemes promote chemical free organic farming in cluster approach aiming at maintaining soil health which leads to improve yield of crops, reducing cost of cultivation, empowering farmers through institution building. Support is provided to the farmers for inputs, value addition including marketing linkages to their organic products.

(c): Organic certification process under Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) India has been simplified with and requirement of documentation has brought down to only 20% of existing one. With the revised norms and simplified procedure once registered, only need to submit one page peer appraisal in the form of check list which can be done through rural common service centre or any internet service provider. Certificates are issued online/by post. Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification is very low cost and easily affordable.
