

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1943
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12/03/2021

RESEARCH IN ORGANIC FARMING

1943. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps for carrying out study in development of organic farming activities;
- (b) if so, the details of such study and steps taken for its implementation;
- (c) whether Government has prepared any action plan for the production of organic manure, fertilizers and organic pesticides in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has any plan to include organic farming as a subject in agricultural education curriculum; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Indian Council of Agricultural Research through ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram operates a research scheme of All India Network Programme on Organic Farming (AI-NPOF) with 20 co-operating centres covering 16 states to develop package of practices for organic production of crops in cropping and farming systems perspective. The scheme involves 11 State Agricultural Universities, 8 ICAR institutes/centres and 1 deemed to be/special heritage university.

- One acre Integrated Organic Farming System (IOFS) models suitable for marginal farmers have been established for Gujarat, Kerala, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu which provides scope to generate quality inputs required for organic farming within the farm, thus reducing the cost of production.
- Scientific package of practices for organic production of crops in cropping systems perspective have been developed for 51 cropping systems. The developed packages have been shared to Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and different States for its implementation under *Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana* and Mission Organic Value Chain in Development for North Eastern region. Interface meetings with State and central agencies are also being organized regularly for scaling up of developed packages and organic farming system models.

(c) & (d): Govt of India have initiated capital investment subsidy scheme (CISS) being implemented through NABARD since 2004 for encouraging establishment of fruit & vegetable agro-composting and bio-fertiliser production units throughout the country. So far, 10 fruit and vegetable agro-composting units and 43 bio-fertilizer units have been installed since inception of the scheme.

(e) & (f): Yes, as per the recommendations of Vth Dean's Committee, organic farming course has been included in under-graduation curricula. At post-graduation level it has also been planned to start a Masters programme in Organic Farming.
