

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2755
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/03/2021

AWARENESS ACTIVITIES ON ORGANIC FARMING

2755. SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI:

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

- (a) whether the farmers who are engaged in organic production are struggling due to poor policy measures, rising inputs costs and limited market, if so, the initiatives taken by Government to promote organic farming in the country, especially in Odisha State;
- (b) whether Government is providing any special packages to farmers of Odisha for organic farming, if so, the initiatives taken in this regard, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has organized any awareness camps to educate farmers in rural areas regarding organic production in Odisha State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): In compliance to organic farming policy of improving rural economy through adoption of low input cost sustainable agricultural practices with a market oriented approach, Government of India launched dedicated scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2015-16 in the country including Odisha to provide end to end support i.e. from production to marketing to farmers involved in organic farming. Post harvest management support including processing, packing, marketing is also provided under the scheme to support organic farmers.

Under PKVY farmers are provided financial assistance of Rs 50,000 per hectare/ 3 years out of which Rs. 31,000 (62%) is provided directly through DBT for inputs (bio fertilizers, bio-pesticides, organic manure, compost, vermi-compost, botanical extracts etc) and an assistance of Rs 8800/ ha for 3 years to the farmers in the clusters for marketing, branding, trade etc.

Natural farming that promotes traditional indigenous practices is also encouraged under Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Padhhati (BPKP), a sub-scheme under PKVY across the country including in the State of Odisha. The scheme gives freedom to farmers from externally purchased inputs and largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations; plant based preparations time to time working for soil aeration and exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs directly or indirectly. Under BPKP, the financial assistance is provided to farmers @ Rs. 12,200/ha for 3 years.

Odisha has covered 20800 ha in 1040 clusters under PKVY scheme benefiting 52000 farmers. Similarly, 24000 ha is taken up under BPKP.

Farmers across the country including in the State of Odisha, are given financial support under the scheme for low cost online PGS Certification which help them to have access to the domestic market. Government also launched a dedicated web portal- www.Jaivikkheti.in/ online marketing platform for direct sale of organic products to the consumers across the country

States including Odisha have been handholding farmers through support agencies and are conducting trainings, awareness camps on organic production, marketing, exposure visit etc. An amount of Rs 7500/ha for 3 years is provided under PKVY for this purpose. National Centre for organic farming (NCOF), subordinate office of the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), spreads awareness among farmers through Jaivik Kisan sammelans, field demonstration and farmers training , print and also electronic media etc..
