

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 654**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/12/2023

**PROMOTION OF BIOFERTILIZERS**

654. MS. KAVITA PATIDAR:  
SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB:  
SHRI KAILASH SONI:  
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SMT. KANTA KARDAM:

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

- (a) the measures undertaken by Government to promote biofertilisers in light of the detrimental effects of chemical fertilisers on human health;
- (b) the details of funding that has been allocated for the distribution of biofertilisers across the country over the past five years, State-wise;
- (c) the manner in which Government has supported R&D in bio fertiliser technology; and
- (d) the details of specific programs or scheme which are in place to encourage the adoption of biofertilisers among farmers?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): Government encourages the use of bio-fertilizers which are cheap and eco-friendly source of nutrient and considered as an important component of organic farming and Integrated Nutrient Management.

In order to ensure the availability of good quality of bio-fertilizers, the Government of India regulates its quality under the Fertilizer Control Order (1985). For ensuring quality, bio-fertilizers have been notified under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985 and their quality standards have been specified which are required to be adhered mandatorily by the manufacturers. Government has notified 32 quality testing laboratory and initiated steps to accredit its laboratories to strengthen quality control activities.

The Government of India is not granting any assistance for distribution of Biofertiliser. However, under the Soil Health & Fertility component of RKVY, bio-fertilizers are promoted through

provisions of financial assistance for strengthening of infrastructure for production and quality control. The scheme is proposal driven and assistance is granted on the basis of proposals submitted by states for setting up Bio-fertilizers Unit and Bio/Organic fertilizer Quality Control lab.

The State-wise consolidated financial assistance given since 2014-15 for establishment of Bio-fertilizers Unit and Bio/Organic fertilizer Quality Control lab in the country under Soil Health & Fertility of RKVY is given at **Annexure-I**.

Government is also promoting the use of biofertiliser under Paramparagat Krishi Vikash Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Under the PKVY scheme, farmers are provided financial assistance of Rs 31000/ ha for 3 years through DBT for on-farm and off-farm organic inputs including bio-fertilizer. Under Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), financial assistance @ Rs 32500/ ha for 3 years is provided to farmers for off farm /on –farm organic inputs including bio-fertilizer.

Government has approved the “PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM)”, which aims to complement the efforts initiated by States/UTs to save the health of Mother Earth by promoting sustainable and balanced use of fertilizers, adopting alternate fertilizers, promoting organic farming and implementing resource conservation technologies. Under the scheme, 50% of the fertilizer subsidy saved by a State/UT in a particular financial year by way of reduction in consumption of chemical fertilizers (Urea, DAP, NPK, MOP) compared to previous 3 years’ average consumption, will be passed on to that State/UT as Grant.

Under Mission Life programme, Government is taking up various environment initiatives to encourage natural and organic farming using organic and bio-fertilizer to reduce carbon foot print, reduced emission of Green House Gas (GHG) through reduction of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed efficient strains of biofertilizers specific to different crops and soil types to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers in agricultural production. When these biofertilizers are applied along with compost @ 5tonne/ha or vermi-compost @ 4tonne/ha, fertilizer saving is estimated to be upto 50%. Therefore, ICAR recommends integrated use of fertilizers and manures. Biofertilizers, both liquid and powdered form have been developed and promoted under All India Network Project on Soil Biodiversity. Biofertilizers for Phosphorus solubilization, Nitrogen fixation, Potassium and Zinc solubilization suitable for different crops across the country are developed and many of them are commercialized. The ICAR also imparts training on use of bio-fertilizers, organizes front-line demonstrations, awareness programs etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects.

National Center of Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF) and its Regional Center of Organic and Natural Farming located at Ghaziabad, Nagpur, Bangalore, Imphal and Bhubaneswar are organizing various HRD trainings namely One Day Farmers’ Training, Two Days Training for Extension Officers/Staff, Two Days Training on PGS, 30 Days Certificate course, One day Jaivik evam Prakratik Kisan Sammelan, One Day Stakeholder consultations/ conferences on Natural

Farming, Orientation Program on Natural Farming and awareness programmes across the country to disseminate information on organic and natural farming as well as on- farm production and use of various kinds of organic and bio-fertilizers. NCONF and RCONF also organize online awareness campaign and training programmes on organic and natural farming and production and use of organic and bio-fertilizers.

To encourage farmers to use the bio-fertilizers, Government has taken various initiatives such as:

- i. The integrated use of bio-fertilizer, organic fertilizer and organic manure has been made integral part of package of practices developed by ICAR and State Agriculture Universities.
- ii. ICAR has developed liquid bio-fertilizer technology with higher shelf –life and also developed improved strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types.

**Annexure – I**

**State-wise consolidated financial assistance given since 2014-15 for establishment of Bio-fertilizers Unit and Bio/Organic fertilizer Quality Control lab in the country under Soil Health & Fertility of RKVY**

(Rs. In lakh)

| <b>S. No</b> | <b>State</b>      | <b>Bio-fertilizer<br/>Production Units</b> | <b>Bio/ Organic-fertilizer<br/>Quality Control Lab</b> |
|--------------|-------------------|--|--|
| 1            | Arunachal Pradesh | 36.00                                      | 19.13  |
| 2            | Assam             | 23.43                                      | 89.25  |
| 3            | Chhattisgarh      | 48.00                                      | 76.50  |
| 4            | Haryana           | 92.16                                      | -  |
| 5            | Meghalaya         | 108.00                                     | -  |
| 6            | Nagaland          | 504.00                                     | 95.63  |
| 7            | Sikkim            | 144.00                                     | 76.50  |
| 8            | Tamil Nadu        | 144.00                                     | 76.50  |
| 9            | Telangana         | 144.00                                     | 76.50  |
| 10           | Tripura           | 108.00                                     | -  |
| 11           | Uttar Pradesh     | 160.00                                     | -  |
| 12           | Andhra Pradesh    | -  | 76.50  |
| 13           | Gujarat           | -  | 38.25  |
| 14           | J & K             | -  | 76.50  |
| 15           | Jharkhand         | -  | 38.25  |
| 16           | Puducherry        | -  | 50.00  |
| 17           | Punjab            | -  | 11.25  |
| 18           | West Bengal       | -  | 63.75  |
|              | <b>Total</b>      | <b>1511.59</b>                             | <b>864.51</b>  |

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