

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 488
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 26/07/2024

DEPENDENCY ON FERTILIZER IN PUNJAB

488. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

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

- (a) the reasons for fertilizer consumption per hectare in Punjab is 223.46 kg, compared to the national average of 90 kg;
- (b) steps taken by the government to lower dependency on fertilizers in Punjab; and
- (c) steps taken by the government to ensure crop diversification in Punjab?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) & (b): The Government of India is advocating the concept of balanced and judicious use of fertilizers on Soil Health Card based recommendation. The Government of India also encourages the use of organic fertilizers through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in the country; for North Eastern Region it implements Mission Organic Value Chain Development. The Government of India objectively assesses the requirement of major fertilizers, namely urea, DAP, MOP, complexes and SSP fertilizers, before each cropping season (viz. Rabi and Kharif) taking into account the projected gross cropped area, irrigated area, last three seasons' consumption pattern and crop wise recommended dose of fertilizers as per soil Health fertility status etc. The 15 districts of the State of Punjab have kg per hectare consumption over state average of 254.39 during the year 2022-23. According to the State Government of Punjab, the per hectare consumption of fertilizers is towards higher side due to very high cropping intensity and primarily Rice and Wheat being grown which are high demanding fertilizer crops.

Under National Project on Soil Health & Fertility Scheme, the Soil Health Cards (SHCs) are used to improve soil health and to ensure judicious use of fertilizer including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers. SHCs provide information on nutrient status of their soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility, under Integrated Nutrient Management.

Government of Punjab has informed that to promote balanced fertilizer use, awareness camps have been organized at village, block, and district levels. Farmers are being educated on proper fertilizer application, including the benefits of green manuring and gypsum application when necessary.

The Government of India is implementing a scheme titled Galvanizing Organic Bio- Resources-Dhan (GOBARdhan), launched in 2018 to convert organic and biodegradable waste including cattle dung, crop residue, market waste etc. into bio-gas and Fermented Organic Manure (FOM). Financial assistance of upto Rs. 50 lakh per Districts is available for the entire programme period.

Further the Government of India is providing Market Development assistance @ Rs 1500/MT for promotion/Sale of FOM.

Government of India has taken adequate measures to promote organic fertilisers in the country by promoting organic farming through the dedicated scheme viz. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2015-16. Under this scheme, farmers are encouraged to take up organic cultivation using organic inputs. The scheme provides end to end support to farmers i.e. from production to marketing of organic produce. Hands-on training to farmers about on-farm production of organic fertilizers and its use are integral part of this scheme.

As per the information received from Government of Punjab, out of the total gross cropped area of 78.71 lakh hectares, about 7,000 hectares are now under certified organic farming. The production of organic fertilizers has increased to 7407.066 MT during 2022-23 from 473.444 MT during 2021-22, indicating increase in production and use of organic fertilizers in Punjab.

(c): The Government of India is implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sectors Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR), in Original Green Revolution States including Punjab to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternative crops, like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cottons etc. The State can promote crop diversification under RKVY with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by Chief Secretary of the State. Further, Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments to encourage diversified production of crops such as pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals (Shree Anna) & cotton under National Food Security Mission (NFSM).

As per the information received from Government of Punjab, following major initiatives have been taken by the Government to promote crop diversification in the state and to reduce dependency on wheat/paddy cycle.

- i) Purchase of Moong for the first time at MSP at a price of Rs.7275/- per quintal during 2022-23 and in the 2023-24 the Moong was purchased @ MSP of Rs.7755/- per quintal.
- ii) Incentivization of farmers for Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) with an incentive of Rs. 1500/- per acre.
- iii) Maize is being promoted in the state by providing seed subsidy @Rs.100 per Kg and by organizing demonstrations.
- iv) Two new potato varieties , Punjab Potato 101 and Punjab Potato 102 have been developed.
- v) Crops like strawberry and dragon fruit are being promoted since they are high value horticulture produce.
- vi) A number of post-harvesting /processing technologies have been developed for diversification of crops.
- vii) The awareness camps have been organized at Village, Block, District level.

Farmers are being motivated to increase area under other crops like maize, cotton, pulses and oilseeds.
