

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 496
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 26/07/2024

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS HINDERANCES IN ORGANIC FARMING

496. SHRI R. DHARMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has any strategies to address the structural and economic hurdles that hinder the adoption of organic fertilizers across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any initiatives to increase awareness and demand for certified organic products to encourage farmers to opt for organic farming;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has planned to improve storage and distribution infrastructure for organic fertilizers in rural areas;
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) & (b): To promote adoption of organic fertilizers, Government is promoting organic farming using organic fertilizers through the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). PKVY is being implemented in all the States other-than North Eastern States, across the country whereas MOVCDNER scheme is being implemented exclusively in the NE States. Under PKVY and MOVCDNER scheme, farmers are directly provided financial assistance of Rs. 15000/ha for 3 years and Rs 32500/ ha for 3 years through DBT for on-farm and off-farm organic inputs including organic fertilizers.

Use of organic fertilizers has been made integral part of package of practices of all crops. Under Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), States are provided assistance to promote Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of

Chemical Fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers. Under SHC scheme various training demonstration programme as well as farmer's melas and workshops are organized.

In order to ensure the availability of good quality of organic-fertilizers, the Government regulates its quality under the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), (1985). Government has notified 32 quality testing laboratory and initiated steps to accredit its laboratories to strengthen quality control activities. Government has also developed a web portal (<https://frs.dbtfert.nic.in/>) for online registration of all kind of fertilizer to make registration more easy and simplified.

To incentivize the farmers to reduce the overall consumption of fertilizers for improving soil health and fertility and sustainable productivity, Government has announced "PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM)" to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote the use of alternative fertilizers such as organic and bio-fertilizers. Under the programme, state Governments will be incentivized to the tune of 50% of fertilizer subsidy saved for promotion of organic and natural farming and organic fertilizers.

Under Mission Life programme Government is taking up various environment friendly Initiative to encourage natural and organic farming using organic and bio-fertilizer for reduced emission of Green House Gas (GHG) through reduction of use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides.

Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) is implementing Phase – II of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Grameen) in a mission mode from 2020-21 to 2024-25. Galvanizing Organic Bio- Resources-Dhan (GOBARdhan), launched in 2018 under SBM (G), is now an integral component of bio degradable waste management under SBM (G) Phase-II for ensuring cleanliness in villages by converting organic and biodegradable waste including cattle dung, crop residue, market waste etc. into bio-gas and bio-slurry. Financial assistance of upto Rs. 50 lakh per Districts is available for the entire programme period.

DDWS is coordinating the implementation of GOBARdhan initiatives of GoI and has developed a unified registration portal for GOBARdhan. As per Department of Fertilizer's Office Memorandum dated 18.07.2023 on policy on promotion of organic fertilizers, only those Compressed Bio Gas (CBG)/ Biogas plants registered on Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan shall be eligible for the Market Development assistance @ Rs 1500/MT.

(c) & (d): For increasing awareness and demand for certified organic products, Government has taken several initiatives under PKVY and MOVCDNER schemes through training, handholding, publicity, awareness programme, support postharvest handling and marketing including branding. Under PKVY, assistance is provided @ Rs 9000/ha for 3 years for training and capacity building where-as under MOVCDNER scheme assistance is provided @ Rs 10000/ha for 3 years. For marketing, branding, value addition, publicity etc. assistance is provided @ Rs. 4500/ha for 3 years whereas, need based assistance is provided for marketing branding and publicity programme under MOVCDNER scheme.

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 for 500 participants, One Day Stakeholder consultations/conferences on Natural Farming for 100 participants, 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.

The ICAR also imparts trainings, organizes front-line demonstrations, awareness programs etc. to educate farmers on organic farming, through network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

(e) & (f): Government is promoting use of organic fertilizers including storage and distribution of organic fertilizers, Government has announced Market Development Assistance (MDA) @ Rs 1,500/tonnes for Fermented Organic Manure (FOM), Liquid Organic Manure (LOM) and Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM). In addition, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) produced 26110.69 quintals vermicompost and are also making, promoting and distributed organic and biofertilizers to the farmers.
