

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 692**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023

**USE OF BIO-FERTILIZERS**

692. SHRI DULAL CHANDRA GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to encourage the use of bio-fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers and pesticides keeping in view their adverse effects on human health;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study to observe the effects of use of biofertilizers on the production; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to promote production/research work in the field of such organic fertilizers to mitigate outcome effects of the usage of such fertilizers on their production which can also be economical in terms of cost?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): In view of adverse effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on human health, 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). 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 kinds of fertilizers to make registration easier 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)” which will be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers. Under this programme, 50% of subsidy savings will be passed on as a grant to the state that saves the money.

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.

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 all these aspects.

Study conducted by Indian Council of Research confirms that bio-fertilizers can improve crop yields by 10-25% and supplement costly chemical fertilizers (N, P) by nearly 20-25% in most of the cases when used along with chemical fertilizers. In order to promote use of organic fertilizers, the Council has developed cost effective technology to prepare various types of organic manures such as phosphocompost, vermincompost, bio-enriched compost, municipal solid waste compost, etc. from various organic wastes. Besides, the Council has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types under Network project on *Soil Biodiversity-Bio-fertilizers*. Liquid Bio-fertilizer technology with higher shelf-life has also been developed. The ICAR also imparts training to educate farmers on use of bio-fertilizers.

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