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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 676
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/12/2023

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF BIO-FERTILIZERS

676. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

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

(a) whether 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, the details thereof including the result of study, if any conducted to observe the effects of use of biofertilizers; and

(c) whether Government proposes to promote production of such organic fertilizers to mitigate adverse effects of the usage of chemical fertilizers, etc.?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): 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 avaibility 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 accredite its laboratories to strengthen quality control activities.

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.

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.

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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