

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1522
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 2023

PROMOTING BIO-FERTILIZERS

1522. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:
SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:

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

- (a) the measures undertaken by the Government to promote bio-fertilizers in the light of the detrimental effects of chemical fertilizers on human health;
- (b) the details of the funding that has been allocated for the distribution of bio-fertilizers across the country over the past five years, State-wise;
- (c) the manner in which the Government has supported R&D in bio-fertilizer technology;
- (d) the details of the specific programmes or schemes which are in place to encourage the adoption of bio-fertilizers among farmers;
- (e) the measures taken and implemented by the Government to encourage millet production and consumption across the country in light of the international year of millets; and
- (f) the details of millet production in 2022-23 in comparison to the previous years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (d): Government of India encourages the use of bio-fertilizers which are 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 bio-fertilizers, Government of India regulates its quality under the Fertilizer Control Order (1985) and their quality standards have been specified therein. It is mandatory for every manufacturer to strictly adhere the prescribed standards.

The Government of India is not granting any financial assistance for distribution of Biofertiliser. However, Government is 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. 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. 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.

National Center of Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF) and its Regional Centers located at Ghaziabad, Nagpur, Bangalore, Imphal and Bhubaneswar conducts various trainings (online/offline) for farmers, Extension staff, Stakeholders consultations on natural farming/organic farming and awareness programmes etc 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.

Further, the Government of India is implementing the programme National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in the identified districts of 28 states and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Under the programme, assistance is being provided to the farmers through the State Government/UTs for interventions such as integrated nutrient management techniques which includes distribution of bio-fertilizers at rate of assistance @ Rs. 300/ha or 50% of cost whichever is less.

(e) To encourage millet production and consumption consequent to the declaration of year 2023 by United Nation's General Assembly (UNGA) as International Year of Millets (IYM), the Government of India is celebrating the year 2023 as 'International Year of Millets' to make it peoples' movement so that the Indian millets, recipes, value added products be accepted globally. The Government of India is implementing a multi stakeholder approach towards celebration of International Year of Millets (IYM) - 2023. The action plan of IYM-2023 focuses on strategies to enhance production and productivity, consumption, export, strengthening value chain, branding, creating awareness for health benefits etc.

To increase production of millets the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing a Sub-Mission on Nutri-Cereals (Millets) under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to increase production and productivity of millets (Shree Anna) in all districts of 28 States & 2 Union Territories viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Under NFSM– Nutri Cereals, the incentives are provided to the farmers, through the States/UTs, on crop production and protection technologies, cropping system based demonstrations, production & distribution of certified seeds of newly released varieties/hybrids, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management techniques, improved farm implements/tools/resource conservation machineries, water saving devices, capacity building of farmers through trainings during cropping season, organizing events/workshops, distribution of seed mini kits, publicity through print and electronic media etc.

(f) The total production of millets namely Jowar, Bajra, Ragi and small millets for 2022-23 and previous years are given below:

Year	Production (in Lakh Tonnes)
2019-20	172.63
2020-21	180.20
2021-22	160.00
2022-23	173.20
