

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 61
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 2023

PRODUCTION OF BIO-FERTILIZERS

***61.** SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:
SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:

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

- (a) the total production of fertilizers including bio-fertilizers, type-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase the production of bio-fertilizers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has experienced any challenges in promoting bio-fertilizers among farmers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to address these challenges?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 61 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2023 REGARDING “PRODUCTION OF BIO-FERTILIZERS”.

(a): The total production of various types of fertilizers during last 3 year (2019-20 to 2021-22).
(in LMT)

Year	Urea	DAP	NPK	SSP	Total fertilizers
2019- 20	244.58	45.50	93.34	42.53	425.95
2020 - 21	246.05	37.74	100.54	49.35	433.68
2021-22	250.72	42.22	89.67	53.34	435.95

Source: dbtfert.nic.in

The total production of Bio-fertilizers during last 3 years (2019-20 to 2021-22)

Year	Carrier based (in metric tonnes)	Liquid Based (in KL)
2019- 20	79436.70	30105.90
2020 - 21	192329.19	42239.76
2021-22	169379.04	232934.29

Source: NCONF

The total production of various types of bio-fertilizers (Liquid and Carrier based) for the year 2021-2022 is given below.

Sl. No.	Type of bio-fertilizers	Liquid Based (in MT)	Carrier Based (in KL)
1	Azotobacter	6276.43	10720.75
2	Azospirillum	3559.3	4963.18
3	Rhizobium	3419.01	5996.98
4	Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria	28832.2	11235.6
5	Potassium Mobilizing Biofertilizers	122261	69976.02
6	Zinc solubilizing Bacteria	15362.4	5229.93
7	Mycorrhizal bio-fertilisers	992.09	17528.4
8	Acetobacter	17095	724.65
9	NPK Consortium	30011.8	10315.34
10	Phosphate Solubilising Fungal Bio-fertilizers	0.6	377.16
11	Other	5123.76	31881.66
	Total	232934	169379.04

Source: NCONF

(b) & (c): Under the Soil Health Card (SHC)/ Soil Health Management (SHM) schemes of National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility, bio-fertilizers are promoted through provisions of financial assistance for strengthening of infrastructure for production and quality control. Under the scheme, there is provision for providing assistance for setting up of bio-fertilizer production unit @ Rs. 160 lakh/ unit of 200 MT capacities. Since 2014-15 to 2021-22 a total 25 bio-fertilizers units have been established in different States across the country to increase the production of bio-fertilizers.

(d) & (e): The major challenges of bio fertilizers are maintaining viability/performance of Bio Fertilizers and its quality control. There is less demand for the bio fertilizer in comparison to chemical fertilizers amongst farmers primarily on account of perception that chemical fertilizers have high nutrient content vis-à-vis bio fertilizer which is not direct source of nutrients secondly bio fertilizers being live products are temperature sensitive and have short shelf life posing difficulty in storage and transportation to farmer's doorstep. Further, after chemical fertilizer usage, the impact of bio fertilizer on crop productivity is limited.

To encourage farmers to use the bio-fertilizers, Government has taken various initiatives such as:

- i. Under SHC/SHM schemes Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with bio-fertilizers and organic manures for improving soil health and fertility.
- ii. Ministry of Fertilizer directed all fertilizer marketing companies for mandatory off-take of Fermented Organic Manure and other organic and bio-fertilizers with chemical fertilizers as a "Basket Approach" to ensure balanced and Integrated Nutrient Management for the crops.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.
- vi. Government is promoting use of bio fertilizers under organic farming in the country through dedicated schemes of Parampargat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER).
