

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1400

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008

ORGANIC FARMING

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether certain States have requested the Union Government to promote organic farming in their respective States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) the details of problems being faced by the farmers in adopting organic farming techniques alongwith the measures to remedy the problems; and
- (d) the details regarding production of organic produces and export thereof during the current year?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Almost all the States have requested the Union Government to promote organic farming in their respective States and sent proposals for releasing funds under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) for capacity building through service providers, trainings, demonstrations, market development, creation of awareness etc. The state-wise and year-wise funds released are given at Annexure.

(c): Important problems being faced by the farmers adopting organic farming are –non- availability of package of practices for organic farming, fear for loss of yield in the initial years, lack of well developed market for organic produce and high cost of certification. Following Measures have been taken to tackle problems of farmers adopting organic farming:-

(i) In collaboration with Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) organic Package of Practices for important crops for 5 States have been prepared.

(ii) Efforts are being made to document available information on organic farming for farmers.

(iii) For promotion of marketing and dissemination of information about organic products a web based information portal is being launched, where farmers can post their details of organic products for marketing. Under NPOF efforts are being made to create awareness for organic products.

(iv) For facilitation of certification at affordable cost, assistance is being provided under the component of `Capacity Building through Service Providers` for Internal Control System (ICS) management & facilitation of certification. An assistance of Rs. 200/- per farmer is provided to the agencies for such Service.

(d): As per the information received from Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Agency (APEDA), the total certified organic production for the year 2007-08 was 5,85,970 MT. The quantity exported was 19,456 MT valued at Rs.308 crores (77 million US \$).