

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1331
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
ORGANIC FARMING
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to promote the cultivation of foodgrains and vegetables without the use of chemical fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to help the farmers to switch over to organic farming?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Government is already promoting organic farming, which does not involve use of chemical fertilizers, for crops including foodgrains and vegetables.

(b): Under the "National Project on Organic Farming" for production, promotion and market development of organic farming in the country, financial assistance is provided for capacity building through service providers, setting up of organic input production units, promotion of organic farming through training programmes, field demonstrations, setting up model organic farms and market development.

Under the "National Horticulture Mission" (NHM) and a "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand" promotion of organic farming has been included as a component and financial assistance is provided for organic cultivation of horticultural crops, setting up of vermi-compost units and organic farming certification.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed technology for preparation of vermi-compost. Besides, microbes to function as effective biofertilizers have also been developed.