

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4363
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC TURMERIC
Ray Shri Rudramadhab

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where Organic Turmeric is produced;

(b) the details of the steps being taken by the Government for improving the quality and enhancing the productivity of organic turmeric in the country including Orissa; and

(c) whether steps have been taken for the procurement and marketing of Organic Turmeric by Government agencies and NAFED in the country including Orissa?

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): Organic Turmeric is generally grown in the North Eastern States including Sikkim and other hilly States/region of the country by default, as the fertilizer consumption in these States/areas is negligible.

(b): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the holistic development of Horticulture viz Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North - Eastern States (TMNE) including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in remaining States and Union Territories. Promotion of organic farming along with certification of various Horticulture crops including turmeric is one of the components under both the schemes. Under these schemes, for adoption of organic farming, assistance is being provided to the farmers @ 50% of cost subject to a maximum of Rs.10,000/- per ha limited to 4 ha per beneficiary. The assistance is also provided for certification of organic produce @ Rs. 5.00 lakh in cluster of 50 ha. Assistance is also provided for generating awareness through organizing trainings, workshops/seminars, publication of leaflets etc.

State Government of Orissa has taken initiatives for production of organic seed materials of turmeric varieties Lime Roma, Suroma, Ranga, Rashmi etc. through Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT). These varieties are having high yielding capacity and high curcumin content than the traditional varieties. The seed materials produced by OUAT are being supplied to Government farms and progressive farmers for multiplication and further distribution in the specific pockets of Koraput & Kandhamal districts of Orissa.

Incentives for organic certification of turmeric in Kandhamal district are being provided to Kandhamal Apex Spices Association for Marketing (KASAM).

(c): In Orissa, two Government agencies viz. KASAM and Orissa Milk Federation (OMFED) are procuring organic turmeric for marketing and export.