

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4533
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
ORGANIC FOOD
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study have been taken to ascertain the impact of organic food on human health, farming, environment and ecosystem; and

(b) if so, the details of the outcomes thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research initiated a Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) in 2004-05 to ascertain the impact of organic farming on soil health and crop quality.

(b) The limited study conducted under this project revealed that the organic system of plant nutrition helped in improving the organic carbon and microbial biomass in soil and the bio-chemical properties of few crops (ginger, turmeric, chillies, garlic, tomato, cabbage, pea, frenchbean, etc.). The micro-nutrient (iron, zinc, manganese and copper) content of organically produced crops also improved significantly. Organic foods, in general, are reportedly safe for human health as they are almost free from pesticide residues and heavy metals.