

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:64

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012

ORGANIC FARMING

Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;Premdas Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fertility and productivity of agricultural land has decreased in the country due to use of chemical fertilisers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to promote organic farming in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the funds allocated for the purpose and the role of agricultural universities in promoting the use of organic fertilisers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 64 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2012.

(a) & (b): There is no scientific evidence of any decline in soil fertility with judicious use of chemical fertilizers. However, indiscriminate and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers with low addition of organic matter over the years has resulted in deterioration of soil health, particularly in the intensively cultivated areas of the Indo-Gangetic Plains.

(c) to (e): Government of India is promoting organic farming through National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY), Macro-Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF), Network Project on Organic Farming under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the various schemes of Agricultural and Processed Food Development Authority (APEDA).

Government launched National Project on Organic Farming during 10th Plan on Pilot basis with an allocation of Rs. 57.05 crores. The scheme continued in 11th Plan with an allocation of Rs. 101 crores. The scheme is being implemented in 2012-13 with an allocation of Rs.21.00 crores. NPOF scheme provides financial assistance through capital investment subsidy for fruit and vegetable waste/agro-waste compost production units, bio-fertilizer and bio-pesticides production units, development and implementation of quality control regime and technical support for organic and biological inputs, human resource development through trainings, etc.

National Horticulture Mission (NHM) & Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) provide financial assistance for adoption of organic farming, setting up of vermi-compost units and organic farming certification. Assistance for decentralized production and marketing of organic fertilizers is also available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) for projects approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee. Assistance is being provided for integrated nutrient management in conjunction with organic sources of nutrients like FYM, Compost, Vermi-compost, Bio-fertilizers etc. under the Macro-Management of Agriculture (MMA). Assistance is being provided for promoting use of Integrated Nutrient Management- Organic Manures under National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF). APEDA, an organization under Ministry of Commerce is implementing National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP) to provide various services such as certification, notification of standards, assistance for promotion of exports of organic products etc. In addition, Government is spreading awareness about organic farming through various extension activities such as exhibitions and fairs, Agri-Clinic and Agri- Business Centres, mass media support activities, radio talks, Kisan Melas, etc.

ICAR, assisted by State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), is implementing a Network Project on Organic Farming to develop package of practices of different crops under organic farming in different agro-climatic regions of the country. ICAR / SAUs impart training and organize front line demonstrations to educate farmers on various aspects of organic farming. ICAR, along with State Agricultural Universities, has also developed technology for preparation of enriched/vermi compost from waste.