

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:853

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012

USE OF BIO-FERTILISERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of organic pesticides/ fertilisers and bio-fertilisers production in the country at present;
- (b) the details of demand, supply and utilisation of organic/bio-fertilisers in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the likely benefits of use of bio-fertilisers on soil fertility and agricultural production;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has proposed any action plan to promote the use of bio and organic fertilisers and finalised any new national fertiliser policy to promote the balanced use of all fertilizers including bio-fertilisers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the funds allocated and utilised in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a): The details of organic fertilizers(manures) and bio-fertilizers production in the country during the last three years is at Annexure-I and II.

(b): Bio-fertilizers being specific live micro-organisms and short-life products are produced against the demand and the quantity produced is also the demand based quantity supply. Total production of different bio-fertilizers in the country is Annexed.

(c) & (d): Studies have been made on the benefits of the use of bio-fertilizers on soil fertility and agricultural production by ICAR. The biofertilizers - cheap and eco- friendly source of nutrient is an important component of Integrated Nutrient Management and can supplement costly chemical fertilizers(N,P) by nearly 20-25% with absolute grain yield benefits ranging from 100-300 kg/ha. The investigations carried out under Network project on Soil Biodiversity-Biofertilizers operating in 14 different states have ascertained the benefits of biofertilizers in terms of sustaining soil health and higher productivity. Rhizobium for all pulses and other leguminous crops is used to promote biological nitrogen fixation in root nodules; Azotobacter for seed coating and soil application and nursery seedling dip of all cereal, pulses, oilseed, vegetable and horticultural crops; and Azospirillum for rice, maize, sugarcane, millets and vegetables for seed inoculation/seedling dip. Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria (PSB) are various strains of Bacillus and Pseudomonas recommended for seed and soil inoculation for all crops. Blue green algae (BGA) e.g., Nostoc, Anabaena, Aulosira, Tolypothrix etc are recommended for rice. Azolla- Water fern that has nitrogen fixing Anabaena as a micro-symbiont, recommended both as a green manure and as inoculant for rice. VAM (Vesicular-Arbuscular Mycorrhiza) are fungi which are associated with the roots of most higher plants and helps the plants in mobilizing macro- and micro-nutrients.

(e) & (f): Government is already promoting integrated nutrient management, advocating soil test-based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers, bio- fertilizers and organic manures to maintain soil health and its productivity through National project on Management of Soil Health & Productivity(NPMSHF) scheme. Government is also supporting production of bio-fertilizers and organic manures and providing subsidy for setting up of Vegetable and Fruit Market Waste Compost units and Bio-fertilizer production units through financial assistance which is being provided as credit linked back ended subsidy through NABARD for setting up of Fruit & Vegetable , Market waste/ Agricultural waste compost unit @ 33% of total financial outlay or Rs. 60.00 lakh whichever is less for 100 ton per day capacity and financial assistance up to 25% of total financial outlay or Rs 40 lakh whichever is less for establishment of state of the art sterile liquid / carrier based 200 TPA biofertilizers and microbial biopesticides production units as credit linked back ended subsidy through NABARD. In order to promote organic fertilizers in the country, the ICAR alongwith State Agricultural Universities has developed technology for preparation of enriched/vermi compost from various rural and urban wastes. Besides, improved and efficient strains of biofertilizers specific to different crops and soil types are being developed under Network project on Soil Biodiversity-Biofertilizers.

State-wise funds are not earmarked however, the funds are released to NABARD for granting subsidy to organic input production

units all over India as per demand.

Details of subsidy approved during the last three years under Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme(CISS) for setting up of bio-fertilizer production units are at Annexure- III.