

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:246
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013
ORGANIC FARMING
Ananth Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for promoting organic farming and marketing of organic products on a large scale;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated and released to the farmers for encouraging organic farming and the benefits accrued to them during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other such Institutions/Agriculture Universities have undertaken research and development works on organic farming in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

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. 246 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27TH AUGUST, 2013.

(a) to (e): Government 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), National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF), Network Project on Organic Farming under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and various schemes of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

NPOF scheme provides financial assistance through capital investment subsidy for agro-waste compost production units, bio-fertilizers/bio-pesticides production units, development and implementation of quality control regime, human resource development, etc. Assistance upto 25% and 33% of financial outlay upto a ceiling of Rs.40 lakhs and 60 lakhs respectively is provided as back ended subsidy for establishment of bio pesticides/bio fertilizers production units and agro waste compost production units respectively.

"National Horticulture Mission" (NHM) and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) provide financial assistance for adoption of organic farming @ Rs.10,000/- per hectare for maximum area of 4 hectare per beneficiary, for setting up of vermi-compost units @ 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary, and for organic farming certification @ Rs.5.00 lakh for a group of farmers covering an area of 50 hectares.

Assistance for decentralized production and marketing of organic fertilizers is also available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) for projects formulated and approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee.

Under National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF), assistance is provided @ Rs.500 per ha for promoting use of Integrated Nutrient Management-Organic Manures.

ICAR 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 also imparts training and organizes front line demonstrations to educate farmers on various aspects of organic farming.

The marketing and export of organic products is promoted through a system of certification of organic produce under National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP) being implemented by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Agricultural Grading and Marking Rules, 2009 being implemented by Directorate of Marketing & Inspection.

Details of financial assistance released for promotion of organic farming under National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture

Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (NPMSH&F) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) during the period 2009-10 to 2012-13 are given at Annexure I, II, III, IV and V.

ICAR is implementing Network Project on Organic Farming to develop package of practices of different crops under organic farming in different agro-climatic regions of the country. The project is running at 13 centres including State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), spread over 12 States. Packages of Practices under organic farming have been developed for 14 crops namely basmati rice, rainfed wheat, maize, red gram, chickpea, soyabean, groundnut, mustard, isabgol, black pepper, ginger, tomato, cabbage and cauliflower. ICAR also imparts training and organizes front line demonstrations to educate farmers on various aspects of organic farming.