

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:220  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015  
' GROW SAFE FOOD 'CAMPAIGN  
Birla Shri Om

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has launched `Grow Safe Food` campaign in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the campaign;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted or propose to conduct any research to develop crops that end or reduce dependence on use of chemical fertilizers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of crops being developed/cultivated; and
- (e) the research institutes involved along with funds allocated for the purpose and the success achieved as a result thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): A 'Grow Safe Food' campaign has been initiated to carry the message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. A simple message on the five essential principles of judicious pesticide use - application of pesticides on the right crop, against pests for which the pesticide has been approved, at the right time, in approved doses, and as per approved method of application - is sought to be conveyed through hoardings, banners etc. in regional languages in Gram Panchayats and rural areas. Advisories have been sent to pesticide dealers through State Governments to stock and distribute/ sell approved pesticides, and to advise farmers to follow instructions on label and leaflets of pesticides.

(c) to (e): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) established a Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) at the Project Directorate for Farming Systems Research (PDFSR), Modipuram during 2004-05 with the aim of developing location-specific technologies and package of practices for organic agriculture. The project has 13 co-operating centers spread over 12 states. Research under this project has led to the development of organic package of practices for 19 crops and cropping systems. ICAR has also started institute based research projects on standardization of organic production of vegetables, fruits, cashew, palms, spices etc.

Two more research projects, a flagship project on organic cultivation of medicinal and aromatic crops and a Network Project on Organic Horticulture have also been taken up by ICAR on this important area.