

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3731

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014

PILOT PROGRAMME ON ORGANIC FARMING

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

- (a) the details of area under organic farming in the country, State/UT-wise including Bihar;
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken research and development works on organic farming in the country;
- (c) if so, the details and the detailed outcome thereof;
- (d) whether organic farming experts of Karnataka have made detailed presentation to the Government and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is considering to start a pilot programme to promote organic farming and open outlets of organic products in different parts of the country and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a): The details of area under organic farming in the country including Bihar is given in Annexure I.

(b) & (c): Under Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) with lead center at Project Directorate for Farming Systems Research, Modipuram, ICAR is conducting research to develop package of practices of different crops and cropping systems under organic farming in different agro-ecological regions of the country. Presently, the project is running at 13 Co-operating centres including State Agricultural Universities, spread over 12 States. Organic farming package of practices for 14 crops namely basmati rice, rainfed wheat, maize, redgram, chickpea, soybean,

groundnut, mustard, Isabgol, black pepper, ginger, tomato, cabbage and cauliflower have been developed, uploaded in Project Directorate for Farming Systems Research (PDFSR) website and disseminated through State Agricultural Universities and other Institutions.

For organic production of crops such as Ginger, Cardamom, Khasi mandarin, Pine apple, sticky rice (local) etc. in the north-east region, research programmes for identification of superior germplasm, their package of practices, processing and value addition are also being undertaken by the ICAR Research Complex for NEH region, Umium.

Under Network Project on Soil Biodiversity-Biofertilizers being operated in 14 different States, improved and efficient strains specific to different crops and soil types are being developed. Liquid biofertilizer technology with higher shelf life has been developed. The council has also developed technologies to prepare various types of organic manures such as phosphocompost, Vermi compost, municipal solid waste compost etc. from various organic wastes.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. A presentation has been made on Organic Farming practices in Karnataka State. The details regarding various components such as bio-mass production, soil & water conservation, pest management, processing centres and marketing support were presented.

Government is promoting organic farming in the country through various programmes, namely, Soil Health Management component under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) and Network Project on Organic Farming under ICAR.

Under Soil Health Management (SHM) component of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), financial assistance upto 50% of cost subject to a limit of Rs.5,000/- per hectare and Rs.10,000/- per beneficiary is provided for promotion of organic inputs on farmers field.

Under Soil Health Management component of NMSA, financial assistance upto 33% of financial outlay upto a ceiling of Rs.63.00 lakhs is provided as back-ended subsidy through NABARD for establishment of agro / vegetable waste compost production units.

Under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), financial assistance for establishing Vermi compost units and HDPE Vermi beds is @ 50% of cost subject to a maximum of Rs.50,000/- per beneficiary for a unit having size of 30'x8'x2.5', for smaller units, assistance is on prorata basis. For HDPE Vermi bed of 96 cft size (12'x4'x2'), the assistance provided is Rs.8,000/- per bed.