

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:369

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016

Symposium on Organic Farming

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Symposium on Organic Farming for Farmers" Prosperity was held in the recent past, if so, the details thereof including the issues discussed during the said conference;
- (b) whether indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides to control various insect-pests and diseases over the year has destroyed many of their natural enemies and soil micro flora;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps proposed by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has made any assessment to find out the areas of land cultivated by organic farming in various States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the organic inputs available against the demand during each of the last three years in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): One Day National Workshops on Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) were organized at Imphal(Manipur) and Lucknow(Uttar Pradesh) on 9th and 11th March,2016, respectively, to create awareness for promotion of organic farming. Besides, National Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare was organized during Sikkim Organic Festival 2016 at Gangtok (Sikkim) wherein Sustainability through Organic Farming was one of the themes for discussion.

(b) & (c): Insecticides are inherently toxic in nature and studies to assess the impact reveals that some chemical pesticides, if used injudiciously at higher dosage, persist in soil and water bodies (streams, rivers and ground water) and cause adverse effects.

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The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India has developed IPM package of practices for 79 major crops with the latest research inputs from State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) wherein various pest management techniques like cultural, mechanical, biological etc. have been recommended as alternate to chemical pesticides. These Package of Practices are placed on public domain; www.ppqqs.gov.in .

Besides, various steps have also been taken as under;

â€¢ With the financial assistance of the Central Government, 38 State Bio-control Laboratories have been established across the country.

â€¢ A Scheme i.e. "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" was launched since 1991-92 for disseminating information about good agricultural practices, promoting use of bio-pesticides & bio-control agents and judicious use of chemical pesticides as last resort. Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government of India has established 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers in 29 States and one UT. These Centres are educating the farmers about various Integrated Pest Management techniques through Farmers Field Schools.

â€¢ 'Grow safe food' campaign is being run in all the States as one of the IPM programmes.

â€¢ A Scheme i.e. "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" has been implemented since 2005-06 and by its 25 laboratories across the country to carry out analysis of pesticide residues in food commodities such as vegetables, fruits, cereals, pulses, spices, curry leaves, red chilli powder, milk, egg, fish/marine, meat, tea, water etc. for the possible presence of pesticide residues. The residue data are shared with the State Governments who in turn conduct awareness programmes for the farmers for judicious use of pesticides and adoption of Integrated Pest Management practices for pest management.

(d) & (e): State-wise cultivation area certified under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) by APEDA for 2015-16 is at Annexure I and the details of organic manure production & availability in the country (excluding green manures) is given at Annexure II.

