

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1129
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16/12/2022

PROMOTING NATURAL FARMING

1129. DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:

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

- (a) the steps taken for the development of natural farming in the country;
- (b) the incentives given to farmers engaged in natural farming;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to facilitate marketing for the farmers engaged in natural farming;
- (d) whether Government has formulated any new policy for promoting natural farming; and
- (e) by when the said policy is likely to implemented and the manner in which it would be beneficial for the farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e): Government is promoting natural farming through a sub-scheme namely Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2019-2020. So far 4.09 lakh ha area has been brought under BPKP.

Department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare (DA&FW) is undertaking large scale training of Master Trainers, Champion Farmers and practicing farmers on techniques of Natural Farming through National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and National Center of Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF). It has also sensitized the public representative like Gram-Pradhan on the technique and benefits of Natural Farming. Study material on 22 regional languages has been prepared and 697 Master Trainers have been developed on natural farming and 997 training were conducted on natural farming for 56952 Gram Pradhans through MANAGE. In addition, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has initiated research in 20 locations to validate natural farming techniques besides demonstrating in 425 KVKs to show cases the benefits of natural farming.

A Digital web portal (*naturalfarming.dac.gov.in*) has been launched for promotion of natural farming to display information about implementation framework, resources, implementation progress, farmer's registration, blog etc.

Under BPKP, natural farming is being promoted in cluster of 500 ha and Rs. 12200.00 is provided per ha for three years, in which Rs. 2000 is provided as incentives to farmers through DBT.

Under BPKP, to facilitate marketing of natural farming products, Rs. 2700 per ha is provided for PGS Certification and Residue Analysis for three years. Farmers can also avail assistance @ Rs. 8800/ha for 3 years from PKVY funds for marketing, value addition and publicity of natural farming products.

Natural Farming is a way of chemical free farming based on locally available resources with no chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Farmers are encouraged to adopt Natural Farming by wide publicity through press and print media, publication of leaflets/booklets, organization of workshops, exhibitions, farmer fairs, information on State/Government of India web portals etc.
