

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3184**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023

**NATURAL FARMING**

3184. SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is promoting natural farming as chemical free farming;
- (b) if so, the details of areas taken under natural farming, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has come up with a new programme for certification of default organic farming areas like remote, hilly, islands areas to save conversion time, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any initiative of Government to provide organic farming certification support to individual farmers which is not a part of existing organic farming schemes and if so, the criteria for getting the assistance; and
- (e) the initiatives taken by the Government to promote alternative/innovative fertilizers which help in reducing the excessive consumption of urea in the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Government is promoting natural farming since 2019-2020 through a sub-scheme namely Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). Natural farming is chemical free farming based on the integrated agriculture and animal husbandry approach using livestock and local resources and relies on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations from local livestock's. So far, 4.09 lakh ha area has been brought under natural farming in 8 states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under BPKP.

The State-wise details of area under BPKP is as under.

Sl. No.	States	Area in Ha
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100000
2.	Chhattisgarh	85000
3.	Kerala	84000
4.	Himachal Pradesh	12000
5.	Jharkhand	3400
6.	Odisha	24000
7.	Madhya Pradesh	99000
8.	Tamil Nadu	2000
<b>Total</b>		<b>409400</b>

(c): Government has initiated a new programme, called Large Area Certification (LAC) since 2020-21 under Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)- India programme under PKVY scheme to certify large traditional/default organic areas such as hills, islands, tribal or desert belt with no past history of Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) and agro chemical usage. Traditional organic area are declared as organic without undergoing conversion period. Under LAC 14,445 ha area under Car Nicobar and Nancowry group of islands in Union Territory of A&N Islands has been covered. 5000 ha area of Ladakh and 2700 ha area of Lakshadweep has been brought under LAC.

(d): The scope of PGS certification has been extended to certification of Individual farmers. Under PKVY scheme, provision has been made for providing assistance of Rs. 2700/ha for 3 years for Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification to individual farmers. States are required to identify individual farmers and encourage them to register with concerned Regional Council (RC) under PGS- India programme. Enrolled farmers will have to register on the Jaivik Kheti Portal with their C-1 status. State will access the details of farmers from jaivik kheti portal. Based on state-wise registration and verification, funds are provided as reimbursement directly to RCs. In case a farmer is having land less than 1.00 ha, then the cost will be calculated on prorata basis.

(e): For reducing excessive consumption of urea, under Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with bio-fertilizers and organic manures for improving soil health, fertility and productivity. Under PKVY & MOVCDNER scheme organic fertilizers and bio-fertilizers are used for organic farming which reduces the excess consumption of chemical fertilizers including urea.

Government has announced "PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM)" to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers. Under this programme, 50% of subsidy savings will be passed on as a grant to the state for promotion of organic and natural farming and organic fertilizers.

To promote the use of organic manures, Government has announced Market Development Assistance (MDA) @ Rs 1500/tonnes for Fermented Organic Manure (FOM), Liquid Organic Manure (LOM) and Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) which will reduce the excessive consumption of urea.

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