

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1960
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
ORGANIC FARMING FOR NORTH EASTERN REGION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the incentives and schemes the Government propose for the development of organic farming in the North East Region; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the State of agriculture in the North East and check jhumming which is the biggest agrarian problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): A National Programme for Organic production has been finalized by the Government of India for encouraging farmers to take up organic farming in the North Eastern Region. Under the programme, organic farming accreditation agencies have been identified and also guidelines on the regulations and procedures for accreditation have been brought out by Department of Commerce, Government of India.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India, is promoting enhanced use of bio-fertilizers, green manure, vermin-compost, Farm Yard Manure and also Neem based integrated Pest Management control measures in organic farming system.

(b): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro management of Agriculture – Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans'. Under this scheme states have greater flexibility to priorities their needs and accordingly take up programmes for development of agriculture in all its aspects. Identifying the potential for development of horticulture in North Eastern States, the Government of India is implementing, since 2001-02, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim'. The Technology Mission addresses all the issues relevant to horticulture such as supply of planting material, production, post-harvest management and marketing. The plantation of fruits crops in the region would help check the jhum cultivation.

Besides, the Department is implementing, since 1944-45, in seven North Eastern States a Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) with a view to check jhum cultivation. The scheme provides 100% grant and encourages settled agriculture through socio-economic upgradation of jhumia families