

പതിമൂന്നാം കേരള നിയമസഭ

പത്താം സമ്മേളനം

നക്ഷത്രചിഹ്നമിടാത്ത ചോദ്യം നമ്പർ 3316

29.01.2014 ലെ മറുപടിയ്ക്ക്

ഗാഡ്ഗിൽ, കസ്തൂരിരംഗൻ കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടുകളിലെ

കാർഷിക മേഖലയെ ബാധിക്കുന്ന ശുപാർശകൾ

ചോദ്യം

ശ്രീ. ഇ.പി.ജയരാജൻ

മറുപടി

ശ്രീ. കെ.പി. മോഹനൻ  
(കൃഷിയും മൃഗസംരക്ഷണവും, അച്ചടിയും,  
സ്റ്റേഷനറിയും വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി)

(എ) ഗാഡ്ഗിൽ കമ്മിറ്റിയോ കസ്തൂരിരംഗൻ കമ്മിറ്റിയോ ഉമ്മൻ.വി.ഉമ്മൻ കമ്മിറ്റിയോ പശ്ചിമഘട്ട പ്രദേശത്തെ പാരിസ്ഥിതിക പ്രശ്നങ്ങളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട റിപ്പോർട്ട് തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നതിന് മുന്നോടിയായി കേരളത്തിലെ കൃഷി വകുപ്പ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥരുമായോ കാർഷിക സർവ്വകലാശാലയിലെ കൃഷി ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാരുമായോ ഔദ്യോഗികമായി ആശയവിനിമയം നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ;

(എ) പശ്ചിമഘട്ട ഉന്നതതല പ്രവർത്തക സമിതി (കസ്തൂരിരംഗൻ കമ്മിറ്റി) പ്രസ്തുത വിഷയങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ആശയവിനിമയം കേരളത്തിലെ കൃഷി വകുപ്പ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥരുമായോ കാർഷിക സർവ്വകലാശാലയിലെ ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാരോ മറ്റ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥരുമായോ നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

(ബി) ആശയവിനിമയം നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ എവിടെവെച്ചാണ് കൂടിക്കാഴ്ചകൾ നടന്നതെന്നും പ്രസ്തുത കമ്മിറ്റി മുമ്പാകെ പശ്ചിമഘട്ട പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെയും പശ്ചിമഘട്ട പ്രദേശങ്ങളോടു ചേർന്നുള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെയും കാർഷിക മേഖലയെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന എന്തെല്ലാം വിഷയങ്ങളാണ് കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ധരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നും വ്യക്തമാക്കുമോ; ഇതു സംബന്ധിച്ച് പ്രസ്തുത കമ്മിറ്റികൾക്ക് നൽകിയ അഭിപ്രായക്കുറിപ്പുകൾ ലഭ്യമാക്കുമോ;

(ബി) തിരുവനന്തപുരം തൈക്കാട്ടുള്ള ടാജ് ഹോട്ടലിൽ വച്ച് 19.01.2013 നാണ് വിവിധ വകുപ്പുകളുടെ ഉന്നത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥരുമായി ആശയ വിനിമയം നടത്തിയത്. ഇതിനെക്കുറിച്ച് ധരിപ്പിച്ച വിഷയങ്ങളുടെ പകർപ്പ് അനുബന്ധം I ആയി ചേർത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

(സി) ഗാഡ്ഗിൽ, കസ്തൂരിരംഗൻ കമ്മിറ്റികളുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകളുടെയും കേന്ദ്ര പരിസ്ഥിതി മന്ത്രാലയത്തിന്റെ 2013 നവംബർ 16-ലെ വിജ്ഞാപനത്തിന്റെയും പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ പശ്ചിമഘട്ട പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ

(സി) പ്രത്യേക പരിശോധന ഒന്നും തന്നെ നടത്തിയിട്ടില്ല. എന്നാൽ 21.12.2013 ലെ സ.ഉ (എം.എസ്)നം.188/2013/പരിസ്ഥിതി പ്രകാരം കസ്തൂരിരംഗൻ കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടിലെ ശുപാർശകളുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ കേന്ദ്ര വനം-പരിസ്ഥിതി മന്ത്രാലയം പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള

കാർഷിക മേഖലയെ ഈ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൾ ഏതെല്ലാം തരത്തിൽ പ്രതികൂലമായി ബാധിക്കുമെന്ന് സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ കൃഷി വകുപ്പോ കാർഷിക സർവ്വകലാശാലയോ എന്തെങ്കിലും പരിശോധന നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ;

ഉത്തരവുകളനുസരിച്ച് സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ പശ്ചിമഘട്ട മേഖലയിൽപ്പെടുന്ന പരിസ്ഥിതി ലോല വില്ലേജുകൾ നേരിട്ട് പരിശോധിച്ച് പരിസ്ഥിതി ലോല പ്രദേശങ്ങളായി നിലനിർത്തേണ്ടവ കണ്ടെത്തി നിർണ്ണയിച്ചും അല്ലാത്തവ ഒഴിവാക്കിയും റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്യുന്നതിനായി പഞ്ചായത്ത് തല പരിശോധന സമിതികൾ രൂപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

**(ഡി)** പ്രസ്തുത പരിശോധനയുടെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ റിപ്പോർട്ട് തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ;

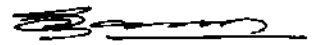
ബാധകമല്ല.

**(ഇ)** എങ്കിൽ പ്രസ്തുത റിപ്പോർട്ട് ലഭ്യമാക്കുമോ;

ബാധകമല്ല.

**(എഫ്)** ഗാഡ്ഗിൽ കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ട്, കസ്തൂരി രംഗൻ കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ട്, 2013 നവംബർ 16-ന്റെ കേന്ദ്ര പരിസ്ഥിതി മന്ത്രാലയ വിജ്ഞാപനം എന്നിവ പശ്ചിമഘട്ട പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ കാർഷിക മേഖലയിൽ ഏതെല്ലാം തരത്തിലുള്ള പ്രതിസന്ധികൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുമെന്നാണ് കൃഷി വകുപ്പ് വിലയിരുത്തുന്നത്; വ്യക്തമാക്കുമോ?

ഉന്നതതല പ്രവർത്തക സമിതിയിൽ ഉന്നയിച്ച പരിഗണനാ വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷി വകുപ്പിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ അനുബന്ധം ഒന്നിൽ സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. മറ്റു പ്രത്യേക പ്രതിസന്ധികൾ കാർഷിക മേഖലയിൽ സൃഷ്ടിക്കപ്പെടുന്നതായി മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല.



സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ

**PROPOSED GUIDELINES AND SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SECTOR-WISE ACTIVITIES**

Detailed sectoral recommendations are in Part II of the Report Sector	ESS1	ESS2	ESS3	Remarks
Across the Western Ghats	Genetically modified crops should not be allowed Phase out the use of plastic bags in shops, commercial establishments, tourist spots, on a priority basis (not more than 3 years)			Genetically modified crops should not be allowed
Agriculture	Promote organic agricultural practices; discourage cultivation of annual crops on slopes exceeding 30%, where perennial crops should be promoted; introduce incentive payments for sequestration of carbon in soils, introduce incentive payments for maintenance of select traditional cultivars, encourage participatory breeding programmes to improve productivity of traditional cultivars; encourage precision agricultural practices, No GMOs			Organic agricultural practices can be carried out in selected areas for selected crops. All other points are acceptable.
	Phase out all use of chemical pesticides/ weedicides within five years Phase out, through a system of positive incentives, use of chemical fertilizers within five years	Phase out all use of chemical pesticides/ weedicides within eight years Phase out, through a system of positive incentives, use of chemical fertilizers within eight years	Phase out all use of chemical pesticides/ weedicides within ten years Phase out, through a system of positive incentives, use of chemical fertilizers within ten years	It is not practically feasible to convert the entire areas into organic as alternative chemicals/ pesticides have not been evolved by Kerala Agricultural University for all the pesticides/fungicides which are being used by farmers.
	Landscape planning in select regions /locations: Identify locations where planning can be done based on the landscape characteristics, treating each area as part of a larger landscape and integrating various cropping systems and other development into it.			Acceptable

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*01/12/2013*

Detailed sectoral recommendations are in Part II of the Report Sector	ESZ1	ESZ2	ESZ3	Remarks
Shift from monoculture to polyculture/mixed cropping systems:	<p>The large extent of monoculture plantations such as tea, coffee, and cardamom needs to integrate more indigenous crops, especially food crops and edible fruiting trees best suited to the locality, to help reduce soil erosion, improve water holding capacity of the soil, enhance productivity and, improve economic returns from unit area. Necessary policies need to be formulated in each State to accommodate this unavoidable change. Implementing them will not be that difficult since most of the large plantations are in leased lands from the Government with specific conditions. Both private and public sector plantations should follow a polyculture/ agro-forestry approach. Government-owned plantations should set a model by taking the lead to bring in such a change for sustainability. Apart from this, each plantation has to set aside a percentage of its area, to be fixed, if need be, by a proper scientific assessment, for natural regeneration, especially near water sources.</p>			<p>Acceptable since this will maintain the gene pool and help reduce soil erosion. This will also enhance the productivity and improve the economic return from the unit area.</p>
Encourage/Support ecological soil conservation measures in the Western Ghats:	<p>The current approach of constructing stone pitched bunds in plantations and small farms needs to be abandoned and support be given for growing live hedges and soil and water binding crops.</p>			<p>Remarks may be obtained from soil conservation department.</p>
Discontinue the use of weedicides:	<p>Of late, the use of weedicides in the Western Ghats has increased to such a large extent that they have become a menace to biodiversity, including many economically valuable species. Further, it has led to the emergence of more hardy weeds. Hence, there is an urgent need for restricting the use of weedicides in the Western Ghats and to progressively ban them according to their hazardous nature. One of the major reasons for going in for weedicides, according to farmers, is that they are more economical than employing manual labour or other mechanical methods. It is, therefore, important that Government subsidise labour for weed removal. One option is to provide MGNREGS support to small and marginal farmers and subsidies for mechanizing weed control in the large plantations.</p>			<p>Weedicides cannot be completely banned in the state but restricted use may be encouraged. Alternate chemicals for weedicides have not been evolved by Kerala Agricultural University. Hence the opinion of Kerala Agricultural University may also be sought in this regard.</p>

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Detailed sectoral recommendations are in Part II of the Report Sector	ESZ1	ESZ2	ESZ3	Remarks
Phase out the use of insecticides and fungicides:	<p>The need for curtailing the use of chemical pesticides and fungicides is of greater priority in the Western Ghats than elsewhere, as application of these 'poisons' in the higher hills gets carried downstream polluting the entire wetland systems. Therefore, there has to be a coordinated programme and action plan for the entire Western Ghats to ease out the use of insecticides and fungicides within a period of 5-10 years in a phased manner and, bring in No Pesticide Management and organic practices for pest and disease control. The Organic Farming Policy of Kerala (Appendix 1) could be adopted as a model not only for the Western Ghats, but also for all the six States benefited by the mountain system. Areas need to be selected on a priority basis for implementing the same. Plantations and farms lying adjacent to the forest areas and water sources have to be taken on priority and the programme integrated with the annual plan of the respective Panchayat. Financial and technical supports need to be provided to the farmers during the transition period.</p>			<p>It is not practically feasible to convert the entire areas into organic. Department of Agriculture promotes INM/ IPM. Department discourages the overuse of these chemicals and promotes judicious application of agricultural chemicals. Organic practices for pest and disease control has not been evolved by KAU. Hence the opinion of KAU may also be sought in this regard.</p>
Encourage use of organic manures:	<p>Use of chemical manure has not only killed the soil biota but also has even changed the soil structure affecting soil fertility in the Western Ghats. This leads to application of an increasing quantum of chemical fertilizers without any scientific basis. Since fertilizers demand more water, there is an increased and unsustainable exploitation of water resources in the Ghats affecting the entire ecology of the hills and downstream. Therefore there is an urgent need for evolving organic management practices. Supports/ subsidies need to be provided for practices such as on-farm development of organic manure, crop rotation, and raising green manure crops. Production of organic manure should be completely decentralized promoting production in the ward level. Self-help groups/ local entrepreneurs should be supported to set up units for the manufacture of organic farming material such as good quality organic manure, oil cakes, and bio-fertilizers so that good quality manure can be assured on time. Large plantations should produce organic manure in their plantations themselves so that more employment can be generated along with ensuring application of organic manure.</p>			<p>Acceptable. Since efforts are to be concentrated on these lines with the organic farming policy this is highly acceptable. Now there are technologies suited for organic manure production like vermi composting.</p>

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Detailed sectoral recommendations are in Part II of the Report Sector	ESZ1	ESZ2	ESZ3	Remarks
Financial support to organic farmers:	<p>Yield loss in the first two to three years has to be compensated by the State. This could, probably, be done without causing much additional financial burden to the State, provided the subsidies and supports given to the agro-chemicals are diverted for supporting the organic and ecological framers. The whole organic farming programme has to be integrated with the annual programme of the Panchayat and provision given for it in the annual budget. At least 20% of agriculture and horticulture and 10% of plantation in each Panchayat should be converted into organic production every year, making food crops in the whole of the Western Ghats poison-free within the next five years and cash crops within the next 10 years.</p>			<p>Financial support may be given to farmers practising organic farming to compensate for the yield loss during the initial years. But complete conversion to organic farming is not feasible as this may affect the productivity of food crops in the state.</p>
Selection of crops and varieties:	<p>The current policy of introducing high yielding varieties and hybrids for improving productivity need to be revisited to accommodate ecological sustainability in management practices. Many of the crops and varieties in cultivation are highly water-intensive and also input-intensive. This has to be completely discouraged by identifying such crops and consequently developing crops and varieties which are less demanding. Local nurseries and seed banks of such crops need to be developed to meet the needs of the farmers. The basic approach for production in the Western Ghats should be for quality produce rather than just quantity and a separate strategy and network should be developed for marketing these good quality products. Value addition and local employment generation should be another strategy to generate more income and improve the local economy.</p>			<p>Acceptable. Almost all varieties which are cultivated now produced from the locally available gene pool. This has resulted in the loss of genes and varieties and has resulted in the concentration of certain particular varieties. So promising varieties are to be encouraged and income of farmers are to be increased by value addition.</p>

9/12/12

Detailed sectoral recommendations are in Part II of the Report Sector	ESSZ1	ESSZ2	ESSZ3	Remarks
<p>Agro-biodiversity conservation and crop improvement:</p>	<p>It is quite indisputable that since the Green Revolution the country has lost many of its traditional local cultivars and other biodiversity elements in the agro-ecosystem. It is more so in the Western Ghats which has been the store house of diversity of most of the cultivated varieties of grains, vegetables, tubers, and fruits. Determined efforts need to be taken to identify, restore, protect and conserve the genetic resources in the farmers' field itself, even while developing ex-situ conservation centres also. A participatory plant breeding and crop improvement programme needs to be launched at the Panchayat level with farmers, including women, to restore traditional varieties and develop good varieties suitable for each locality. It may be noted that mountain ecosystems naturally have a diversity and local adaptability of cultivars and hence the seeds developed for the plains and other regions may not perform well in this area. Conserving locally adaptive varieties may also become extremely relevant in the context of climate change.</p>			<p>Acceptable</p>
<p>Make the Western Ghats free of Genetically Modified crops, trees and animals:</p>	<p>The biodiversity of the Western Ghats, one of the biodiversity hot spots of the world, although not yet fully documented, has been the source of original genes responsible for the present day cultivars. It is therefore vital to conserve them and guard them from genetic contamination from unnatural sources such as GM crops and GM trees. Since genetic contamination of local varieties from GM crops is an established fact, no attempt should be allowed to introduce GM crops in the Western Ghats. Not even open field trials should be allowed. However, Bt cotton, the first genetically modified crop in the country, is being cultivated in some parts of the Western Ghats. Immediate action is called for to stop this practice and farmers involved should be supplied with non-Bt cotton seeds. They should also be encouraged to go the organic way and a separate marketing channel opened up for cotton farmers in the Western Ghats. Attempts are being made to introduce GM trees such as GM rubber. This should never be allowed.</p>			<p>Acceptable. The Gene pool may get polluted due to the introduction of artificially created/modified genes.</p>

  
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Detailed sectoral recommendations are in Part II of the Report Sector	ESZ1	ESZ2	ESZ3	Remarks
Awareness building:	Awareness building among different sectors including consumers, traders, policy makers on a regular basis on the indispensability of sustainable agriculture development in the Western Ghats is a must to ensure larger social support for the implementation of various programmes. Various innovative methods have to be adopted for the same using the creative energy of local communities.			Acceptable.
Educating children about organic and ecological farming and their role in conserving the biodiversity of the Western Ghats:	The importance of the Western Ghats, especially its role as a source of water and as a genetic store house of cultivars, the need for conserving its biodiversity, the role of ecological agriculture in limiting the damage to the ecosystem, and such topics should be taught formally and informally in all the schools and other educational institutions in the Western Ghats states in the local languages.			Acceptable
Forest corridors:	Plantations between the forest patches used by animals for movement should be abandoned and steps taken to gradually revert them back to forest where ever required.			This will prevent soil erosion and helps in the preservation of bio diversity.
Forest patches within and along the streams in the plantation:	Forest patches within the plantations and the forest vegetation along the course of the streams and rivulets are to be protected as they are havens for biodiversity. Many endangered, endemic species have been reported from these 'islands of biodiversity'. Expansion of plantations into these areas should never be allowed.			Acceptable
Community forestry:	Community forestry should be encouraged to help provide necessary manure, fodder for farming, fuel wood and other needs.			Acceptable



Detailed sectoral recommendations are in Part II of the Report Sector	ESZ1	ESZ2	ESZ3	Remarks
Wildlife problems:	<p>One of the major problems for farming in the Western Ghats is the destruction caused to it frequently by the wildlife. While farmers should be compensated for crop loss, change of crops unsuitable for wildlife may be considered. In the case of wild boar which is a menace to agriculture in many places, the only solution, probably, is to cull them under strict guidelines and make commercially viable value added products as cottage industry. While crop change may control the damage to certain extent in the case of herbivores, farming in forest cleared areas which were traditional migratory route of elephants may have to be abandoned. Farmers thus affected need to be adequately compensated.</p>			Acceptable
Marketing: Strategies focusing on:	<p>(a) maximum profits to the farmers reducing the middlemen, (b) fixing premium prices, for produce resulting from conservation efforts as done for Costa Rican Coffee, (c) linking the products of organic practices in the Western Ghats to local and regional markets, (d) securing carbon credits for organic farmers and, (e) ensuring Government support for all these efforts should be developed and implemented under the overall supervision of the proposed Western Ghats Ecology Authority</p>			Acceptable
Tribal farming:	<p>A separate strategy on priority for tribal farming to revive their traditional farming methods and culture, bringing back the traditional cultivars and food culture needs to be developed.</p>			Acceptable
Research:	<p>Research related to agriculture and horticulture in the Western Ghats region should give priority for restoration of traditional cultivars, and developing locally suitable, low cost organic farming technologies and practices. Local educational and research institutions should be encouraged to take up research projects to help farmers shift from non-organic methods to organic agriculture.</p>			Acceptable

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