

Govt working on blueprint to cut use of water and fertilisers, improve soil quality

By [Yogima Seth Sharma](#), ET Bureau | Jan 10, 2024

Synopsis

To reduce use of fertilizers, enhance soil quality by using organic products, diversify crops and minimise the use of water, nutrients and energy on farmlands, Centre is working towards a blueprint as it is focusing on scaling up agroecology in India under its Vision 2047. Agroecology is sustainable farming or application of ecological concepts and principals in farming.



The government is working on a blueprint to reduce use of fertilizers, enhance soil quality by using organic products, diversify crops and minimise the use of water, nutrients and energy on farmlands as it focuses on scaling up agroecology in India under its Vision 2047.

The idea, which is aimed at improving farm output and income, will also help India address the twin problems of a growing population that needs to be fed through higher and sustainable agricultural production while mitigating the

impact of existing farm techniques on climate and soil health, a senior government official told ET on the condition of anonymity.

Agroecology is sustainable farming or application of ecological concepts and principals in farming. The government is expected to lay out a roadmap to allow gradual transition to agroecological techniques and practices as the country aspires to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Some of the focus areas under it could be enhanced production of high value crops with a significant share of millets, production of high value and climate resilient crops, minimum or no use of pesticide and a shift to organic or natural farming, improved supply chain management and fiscal support on procurement and marketing.

"We are working in two different directions. One is to enhance agriculture productivity and the other is to ensure sustainable agriculture techniques," the official said, adding that agroecology and natural farming is the way to go. A recent policy paper by [NITI Aayog](#) on 'A New Paradigm for Indian Agriculture' provides evidence of mounting unsustainability in agriculture and calls for a new paradigm in Indian agriculture through the adoption of agroecological principles at scale.

As per the paper, average farm sizes in India have been going down impacting output while extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides have impacted the soil quality over the years. Besides, since over half of the agriculture land in the country is rainfed, the crop output gets impacted, it had said, suggesting the need to enhance irrigation coverage. The Aayog is also of the view that the adoption of agroecological practices, such as natural farming, organic farming, biofuel production, agroforestry, waste recycling etc can support in achieving the targets under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/blueprint-in-works-to-cut-use-of-water-and-fertilisers-improve-soil-quality/articleshow/106676688.cms>