

Niti Aayog to prepare 'natural farming' guide

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New Delhi: Seeking to give a big push to environment-friendly traditional farming practices, the Niti Aayog will prepare a roadmap to scale up areas under 'natural farming' beyond four lakh hectares which have, so far, been covered in the country. Besides, the government has been working on a plan to include this practice as part of a syllabus in agriculture universities.

Announcing this at a national workshop on innovative farming, agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar said though there has been an apprehension among few farmers that production might decline by shifting to natural farming,

they would switch over to this practice after looking at the success stories in states like Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. He said Niti Aayog will prepare a roadmap after deliberation with farmers, scientists and agri-universities' vice chancellors in the workshop and his ministry would move forward accordingly.

The ministry is promoting the practice as part of a sub-scheme of the 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana' which also promotes organic farming. About 38 lakh hectares have been brought under organic farming at present. In organic farming, farmers use organic fertilisers which weigh heavily on farmers' pockets.