

# Support for Organic Farming Inputs

**Pacific Organic Policy Toolkit**  
<http://www.organicpasifika.com/poetcom>

## **Support for organic farming inputs**

### ***Political justification***

Especially in developing countries, sources of inputs for organic farming are few. Farmers are not always in position to make compost in enough quantity to meet the farming needs, and also there are potential benefits of economy of scale from facilities for production of compost and other inputs. In addition to distributing advice on organic farming through extension, one of the most significant contributions that governments can make to organic farmers is to facilitate their access to inputs including organic seed, fertiliser, and pest management materials.

### ***Suitable contexts***

Support for organic input development, production or import is a relevant action for any policy objective that aims to develop organic production. It is therefore a suitable measure to any stage of development, any regulatory context, and any logic of the policy support to organic. The only context in which it may not be suitable or feasible is in the case of a government culture of no intervention on the agricultural market. As agricultural input provision is also a business segment, anti-intervention governments will likely not want to get involved into such action that would twist the market competition in favor of certain types of inputs.

### ***Possible modalities of implementation***

Where commercial inputs are available, governments can offer subsidies to farmers towards their purchase. However, in most cases in the Pacific, commercial inputs are not yet widely available. In this context, governments may offer subsidies to businesses for the development of inputs, or they may directly develop input supplies for farmers, particularly regional vermi-composting facilities, or other regionally appropriate inputs. For example, in this toolkit under support to research, an SPC applied research project on seaweed is described. Commercialisation of such an input could be government supported or the government could directly develop a facility and distribution system for farmers. Governments can also implement release of bio-controls in areas of organic farming, or provide beneficial insects to farmers.

### ***Countries Examples***

Bali, Indonesia: Since 2009, Bali has been implementing a gradual strategy to replace chemical fertilisers by organic fertilisers. Besides phasing out subsidies on chemical fertilisers (phased out in 2012) and continuously increasing subsidies on organic fertilisers, the integrated rice farming (Simantri) program (also known as “Organic Bali”), offered cash and technical assistance to farmers’ groups willing to adopt organic farming methods. The government selects various districts in which the program is implemented. In one aspect of the program, the government partnered with the Temesei Recycling company to support development and free distribution of

pelletized organic fertiliser from its green-waste recycling operation. In 2012, the governor of Bali received an award for this program from the Indonesian Minister of Agriculture.

India (National Organic Program): Financial assistance for setting up organic input production units at 25% of the total cost of project up to Rs.40.00 lakh (USD 60,000) per unit for fruit/vegetable waste compost units and Rs.1.5 lakh (USD 2,200) per unit for vermi-culture hatcheries is provided as credit linked back ended subsidy through NABARD. The scheme provides a credit-linked back-ended capital investment subsidy. The subsidy, issued by National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development, is retained by the financing institution, and adjusted against the loan amount at the end of the repayment period. The load period is generally 10 years, with interest rate established by the loading institution.

- Under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) financial assistance is provided for setting up vermi-compost units @50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs 30,000/ (US\$ 450) per beneficiary.
- Under National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF) there is provision for promotion of organic fertiliser up to Rs 500 (US\$ 7.50) per hectare. Assistance is also available for organic fertilisers under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Sikkim State, India: Sikkim does not provide general subsidies. However, it provides many technical supports These include bio-fertilisers (including EM) mineral fertiliser and seeds and planting material. Results:

2009- A bio-fertiliser production unit was established in the State.

2006-09- Eight units of vermi-culture hatcheries had been established in five Government Farms and three KVKs of the State.

2010-11- Automated greenhouses were established for production of disease free quality planting material.

Philippines: Under the National Organic Program, Rule 4.4, commercialisation of biological and organic inputs such as fertilisers or biological plant nutrition, plant livestock/aquaculture protection and pest management products are promoted and encouraged, taking into consideration the indigenous knowledge, local resources and practices and the science and technology based approaches in the communities. The supported products must comply with the requirements of the updated and/or reformulated standards/criteria of the Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture. Implementation is done at regional and local levels, with the governments providing no-cost or low cost inputs.

*Results (distributed from 2011-2015)*

*151,886 kg Organic seeds*

*561,697 kg Organic Fertilisers and other inputs*

*320,947 pcs Bio Control Agents*

*120,955 Planting Material*

*27,400 Fingerlings and Brood stock*

*1,671 Animals*

*10 Testing kits*



*146 Production Facilities Maintained*  
*22 Production Facilities Upgraded*  
*578 Vermi-composting Facilities Established*

**Republic of Korea:** There are special subsidies to all (not just organic) farmers related to organic practices for the following:

- purchase of organic fertilisers
- soil conditioning assistance (to reduce acid soils)
- green manure seed purchase assistance (applied to fallow farmlands)

There are two types of eco- friendly fertiliser support projects: the organic fertiliser support project, and the soil conditioner assistance project. The organic fertiliser support project supports farmers and farm corporations who use organic fertilisers (fixed press cake fertiliser, fixed organic fertiliser, organic composite fertiliser, livestock manure compost and general compost). Subsidies are given on fixed amount basis. The soil conditioner assistance project is to improve acidic soil and farmland soil with a low effective silicic acid content through the input of soil conditioners, as in Korea the mother rock itself usually possesses acidity, and the heavy reliance on chemical fertiliser in cultivation accelerates soil acidification. Therefore soil improvement is an important task for the establishment of a sustainable agricultural base. The project supports the farming households which cultivate farmland in all parts of the country; for the project supports rice paddies with an effective silicic acid content of less than 130 ppm and field with volcanic ash.

