

# Zero Budget Natural Farming(ZBNF). A Review

There is a popular saying **the proof of the pudding is in eating**. It means that something can be judged as very good or very bad only after it has been tried.

Andhra Pradesh( AP) introduced ZBNF in the FY 2016-17 . ZBNF requires nil use of chemical inputs. When launched in AP, It was claimed that it would save **Rs 2100 cr** annually by way of avoiding fertilizers use and connected subsidies.

**Q** Has ZBNF reduced fertilizers consumption?

**A** No. In fact the consumption has significantly increased.

According to latest data released by. Dept of Fertilizers, GoI, the NPK consumption in AP sharply increased by **52%** in the last three FYs . This is the largest growth reported by any state.

Kerala is another state that embraced ZBNF. Kerala has reported **24%** growth in fertilizers consumption in the last three years..!

A research article published in 2019 by B. Guruva Reddy and others asserted Our analysis and observations do not give indications that ZBNF will be adopted widely

ZBNF, originally developed in Japan failed to establish over there. Japan uses more fertilizers per unit area than most countries incl India.

Farm policies need evidence based approach. Evidence in this case is clear, cogent and glaring - against ZBNF.