

ORGANIC FARMING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract

Organic farming as a follow has witnessed a steep boost over the previous few years. The most common reasons square measure able to attribute to the present development is the improved style and better alimentary price derived from organic manufacture. The organic farming follow conjointly comes bundled with immense ecological advantages. In order to maximize the crop output from a finite piece of land, farmers tend to rely heavily on pesticides. These pesticides unnaturally facilitate to form the crops immune to diseases and, hence boost farm output. Further, the artificial chemicals usually won't to supplement processes like crop rotation cause soil erosion additional impacting the surroundings in a very negative manner. Organic farming in essence discourages the employment of harsh chemicals and thus, contributes towards the preservation of the natural environment. Organic farming doesn't place confidence in the employment of artificial fertilizers as critical standard techniques that square measure generous with these external chemicals. Avoiding fertilizers contributes to a bigger explanation for energy conservation. This is as a result of producing artificial fertilizers consumes a big quantity of energy. Organic farming is all concerning natural cultivation practices, which are fairly superior to chemical soil management in terms of ultimate impact on soil. With its practices closely mimicking nature, organic farming ensures that the earth remains unaffected due the externally exposed chemicals. This retains the soil's natural ability to thrive sustainably. Organic farming as a property follows conjointly contributes towards curtailing the development of world warming. Hence, organic farming can be called the flag bearer of sustainable farming with all its environmental benefits. With the increasing population, and growing need to feed more mouths in the years to come, it's of paramount importance to adopt this practice, so as to ensure that our natural resources square measure in a very position to satisfy basic human desires within the future.

Key words: Organic farming, organic products, sustainable agriculture, etc.

1. Introduction

Organic farming as a practice has witnessed a steep boost over the last few years. The most common reasons we can attribute to this phenomenon are the improved taste and higher nutritive value derived from organic produce. However, its advantages are not restricted to its benefits pertaining to consumption and nutrition. The organic farming practice also comes bundled with huge ecological benefits.

2. Organic farming as a step towards sustainable agriculture

Reduces exposure to harmful chemicals: Organic farming in principle discourages the use of harsh chemicals and therefore, contributes towards the preservation of the natural environment. In fact, research studies have revealed that organic farming can eliminate about 500 million pounds of pesticides and chemicals from entering into the environment annually.

Consumes less energy: Avoiding fertilizers contributes to a greater cause of energy conservation. This is because manufacturing synthetic fertilizers consumes a significant amount of energy. On average, it's safe to say that the energy usage is lower by at least 30-50 per cent in the organic farming systems.

Reduces nitrogen run-off induced pollution: Nitrogen could be a key ingredient within the manufacture of fertilizers employed in ancient farming. As such, its usage has magnified exponentially over the previous few years. When used on the land, concerning two-third of this chemical element winds up in rivers and interferes with the marine surroundings, successively troubling the whole system.

Facilitates healthy soil formation: With its practices closely mimicking nature, organic farming ensures that the earth remains unaffected due the externally exposed chemicals. This retains the soil's natural ability to thrive sustainably. Organic methods ensure that the soil is healthier and more useful, with its carbon and nitrogen cycle well balanced. Additionally, due to significant retention of beneficial bacteria, the natural nitrogen fixation in the soil also gets a boost. Studies imply that solely a teaspoon of organic soil made in compost will host up to one billion useful microorganism from fifteen, 000 species. This is in stark distinction to identical quantity of with chemicals treated soil that is home to useful bacterium, but one hundred in count.

Combats the effects of global warming: Organic farming has the potential to not solely cut back CO₂ however additionally abate the temperature change method. Hence, organic farming can be called the flag bearer of sustainable farming with all its environmental benefits. With the increasing population, and growing got to feed additional mouths within the years to come back, it is of paramount importance to adopt this practice, so as to ensure that our natural resources area unit in a very position to satisfy basic human desires within the future.

3. Need for organic farming in India

Ever increasing population as against associate in nursing ever decreasing offer of living resources like food and water has created it necessary to extend the agricultural production and stabilize it in a viable and feasible manner. The benefits of green revolution have currently reached upland and with decreasing returns it's become necessary to plot alternate techniques. In

addition, the surplus use of fertilizers and artificial growth regulators has junction rectifier to a difficulty known as pollution. The need of the hour may be a natural balance between life and property for existence. Keeping visible the actual fact that fossil fuels area unit on their approach of extinction and area unit non-renewable, organic, nature friendly ways of farming and agriculture has gained importance.

4. Concept of organic farming

Organic farming may be a terribly native construct to India. It is based on the following principles:

- Soil is a living entity.
- Nature is the best teacher for farming since it does not use any external nutrients or additional water.
- Organic farming is based on understanding the ways of nature. It doesn't mine the soil of its nutrients nor will it degrade the soil for fulfilling the wants of the mortal.
- The living population of the soil is protected and nurtures. The natural micro-organisms in soil don't seem to be injured in any approach.
- The focus in organic farming is the soil itself. The health of the soil and its structure is maintained because it is believed to the foremost necessary medium.

Thus, organic farming may be a system of farming that aims at keeping the soil alive, maintaining its physiological state, cultivating the land and then raising the crops. This should be done to take care of pollution-free surroundings associate in nursing in an ecological manner.

5. Salient features of organic farming

- Protecting soil fertility.
- Maintaining the level of organic matter.
- Encouraging biological activity in soils.
- Providing nutrients through the microbial action.
- Using legumes to fulfill the nitrogen requirements of the soil.
- Recycling organic matter like crop residues and manures.

- Managing diseases, pests and weeds through the use of techniques like natural predators, organic manuring, crop rotation, maintaining diversity, growing resistant varieties, etc.
- Effective livestock management by paying special attention to their nutrient requirements, housing, breeding, rearing, etc.

6. Organic farming in Tamil Nadu

In the context of changing world scenario towards organically produced food, organic farming is gaining importance worldwide. India, as results of "Green Revolution" has earned self-reliance in foodstuff production and is in a position to feed the 2 billion mouths. But this has undoubtedly junction rectifier to development of our natural resources and indiscriminate use of chemicals for cultivation. With food safety issues looming massive, we have to definitely take a stand on sustainable agriculture by adopting organic farming methods especially in food crops. Realizing this, the following announcement was made by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture on the floor of the assembly during the Agriculture Demand regarding Organic Farming Policy of the State. This announcement has already instilled a way of responsibility among the stake holders and public and it is imperative to draft the policy forthwith.

Though our state tends to be a pioneer in most of the technologies and policies, we are found to be lagging behind states like Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal as so much as organic farming worries. Organic farming ways may be devised solely supported a robust state policy. The method of implementation and agencies involved can also be defined based on a policy. Hence, these attribute kind a vicinity of the State Organic Farming Policy. For three decades, awareness about organic farming and the importance of consuming products produced through organic farming has been gaining momentum in Tamil Nadu with experts such as the late Nammazhvar working overtime across the State. However, the notice has been created principally by activists instead of by intervention of the government. So far, solely states like geographic area, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have declared their own organic farming policy while many others on the process to implement organic farming vigorously. In state too, environmental and agricultural consultants are urging the government to evolve its own policy for long. In September 2012, the state government formed a committee to draft the organic farming policy with contributions of many experts and it was ready in 2013. However, the draft policy never got the approval of the state government. Meanwhile, awareness about organic products has increased manifold among the public and the number of activists working at the ground level has gone up. Without a policy, a government cannot promote a major programme like organic farming. When it takes the form of a policy, it will get authenticity and will have much more impact on the implementation. Being a water-starved state,

Tamil Nadu has to choose organic farming as it consumes less water. In the semi-permanent, this would be vital as the water crisis is going to aggravate in one or other form in the coming years.

The southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu has been reeling below its worst drought in additional than one hundred years. It has plunged the state into associate degree agricultural crisis, with reports of distressed farmers committing suicide. Farmers in important coastal agricultural region have gone back to traditional crops and farming methods to fight the lack of irrigation water as well as soil salinity. The salinity has enlarged as ocean water has intruded over the years. The Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, and NGOs, has been giving technical support to farmers for more than two decades, helping them to switch from chemical to organic farming. It has provided drought-resistant, traditional crops that consume less water and helped farmers to build ponds to store rain water. Traditional crops, which once ruled this agricultural landscape, faded with the onset of the green revolution. Today, farmers are going back to ancient crops like coconuts, vegetables and pulses, with rising consumer demand for such produce in India.

7. Reference

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