

ORGANIC FARMING PRINCIPLES & STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTION & PRODUCTION

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Abstract : Industrial mass-production methods have contributed to food losing the high quality, freshness and great taste that only small-scale sustainable practices can produce. The time has come when we should be dedicated to preserve the environment by providing the consumers with cost-effective, state-of-the-art, organic growing supplies and the information and tools needed to apply them. We should strive to provide growers at every level, from home gardeners to commercial farmers, with great service, low prices and the best selection of quality products available. The researchers should have focused on “organic” and continue to participate in outreach programs to promote the benefits of organic growing. On the one hand, organic gardening includes the practical side of growing fruit and vegetables. But on the other hand, it relishes the ethical side of gardening, where people are concerned with global warming, the water crisis, wildlife habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity. The present write up will describe that the organic garden can save these concerns with practical measures, such as water tanks, utilizing grey water, drip irrigation, mulching, recycling of kitchen scraps and providing a suitable habitat for wildlife.

Keywords: Environment, organic farming, bio fertilizers, microorganism, bio-diversity.

I. INTRODUCTION

India had developed a vast and rich traditional agricultural knowledge since ancient times and presently finding solutions to problems created by over use of agrochemicals. Today’s modern farming is not sustainable in consonance with economics, ecology, equity, energy and socio- cultural dimensions. Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, weedicides and pesticides has resulted in various environmental and health hazards along with socio-economic problems. Chemical base farming system is no more beneficial as it requires high input and low return, resulting migration of youth from rural area to urban area in search of other jobs. Besides that, cultivable area and forest land is shrinking day by day and become biggest threat to habitat of animals and birds. Though agricultural production has continued to increase, but productivity rate per unit area has started to decline.

Traditional agricultural practices, which are, based on natural and organic methods of farming offer several effective, feasible and cost effective solutions to most of the basic problems being faced in conventional farming system.

DEFINITIONS OF ORGANIC FARMING

Among the most stringent definitions is that of US Department of Agriculture, which defined Organic Farming as, “A system that is designed and mailed to produce to agricultural products by the use of methods, and substances that maintain the integrity of organic agricultural products until they reach the consumer”. This is accomplished by using, where possible, cultural, biological and mechanical methods, as oppose to use substances to fulfill any specific fluctuations within the system so as to maintain long term biological activity, ensure effective management, recycle waste to return nutrients to the land provides attentive cares for farm

animals and handle the agricultural products without the use of extraneous synthetic additives or processing in accordance with the act and regulations in this part.

CONCEPT OF ORGANIC FARMING

The basic concepts behind Organic farming are:

- It concentrates on building up the biological fertility of the soil so that the crops take the nutrients they need from the steady turnover within the soil nutrients produced in this way are released in harmony with the needs of the plants.
- Control of pests, diseases, and weeds is achieved largely by the development of an ecological balance within the system and by the use of bio-pesticides and various cultural techniques such as crop rotation, mixed cropping, and cultivation.
- Organic farmers recycle all wastes and manures within a farm but the export of the products from the farm results in a steady drain of nutrients.

TABLE 1.1 BENEFITS OF ORGANIC FARMING

Parameter	Potential benefits
Agriculture	Increased diversity, long-term soil fertility, high food quality, reduced pest/disease, self-reliant production system, stable production
Environments	Reduced pollution, reduced dependence on non-renewable resources, negligible soil erosion, wildlife protection, resilient agro-ecosystem, compatibility of production with environment
Social conditions	Improved health, better education, stronger community, reduced rural migration, gender equality, increase employment, good quality work
Economic conditions	Stronger local economy, self-reliant economy, income security, increase returns, reduced cash investment, low risk
Organizational/institutional	Cohesiveness, stability, democratic organizations, enhanced capacity

PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC FARMING

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) has formulated four broad principles of organic farming, which are the basic roots for organic agriculture growth and development in a global context. These principles of organic agriculture serve to inspire the organic movement in its full diversity. The principles are to be used as a whole, which are composed as ethical principles to inspire action. They are:

- Principle of Health
- Principle of Ecology
- Principle of Fairness
- Principle of Care

Organic agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible. Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help to sustain them. Organic agriculture should attain ecological balance through the design of farming systems, establishment of habitats and maintenance of genetic and agricultural

diversity. Organic agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities. Fairness is characterized by equity, respect, justice and stewardship of the shared world, both among people and in their relations to other living beings. Organic agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Some strategies have been made for success of Organic Farming in India, which must be kept in the mind. They are as follows:

- Establishment of centre of excellence and countrywide network for research on Organic Farming.
- Documentations of available indigenous technological knowledge (ITK) and other technologies developed by various public sector research centres/NGO/ individuals on different aspects of Organic Farming in India.
- Introduction of core courses on the concepts and practices in Organic Farming in the curriculum of under graduate and post-graduate degree programmes at different SAUs and other Agricultural Institutes.
- Standardizations of mechanisms or methods for suitability or judging of Organic Farming practices.
- Formulation of appropriate package of practices of productions of different crops under Organic Farming Systems.
- Export groups, comprising of eminent agricultural as well as social scientists and progressive farmers may be constituted for visiting farms of successful farmers associated with organic farming practices.
- Dissemination of knowledge on Organic Farming through Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), field demonstrations, TV programmes and other suitable mass media etc.

II CONCLUSION

Organic Farming has the twin objective of the system sustainable and environmentally sensitive. In order to achieve these two goals, it has developed some rules and standards which must be strictly adhere to. There is very little scope for change and flexibility. Thus, the Organic Farming does not require best use of options available rather the best use of options that have been approved. These options are usually more complex and less effective than the conventional system. With ever increasing population having huge requirements of vegetables and meager availability of organic resources, pure organic farming is not possible in India; rather some specific area can be diverted to organic farming for export of high quality vegetable crops. Thus, as a whole under Indian condition, only partial switching to Organic Farming of export oriented.

III ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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