PARAMPARAGATH KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (PKVY) IN INDIA A SPECIAL SUBSIDY SCHEME TO THE FARMER'S FOR ORGANIC FARMING)

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Abstract

Organic farming has become increasingly important in India given the rising costs and increasing losses due to climate change and aberration in rainfall and extreme climatic events like floods and droughts. The consumers are able to and willing to purchase the organic food products at higher premium prices as they are free from chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Apart from this, there has been a significant rise in the demand for organic food across the world due to increased consciousness related to health problems arising with the chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Keeping theses in focus, there is a higher thrust on PKVY to promote organic agriculture. It is basically a scheme of supporting organic farming via cluster approach with participatory guarantee system. The Indian government is encouraging organic agriculture under centrally sponsored scheme of Paramparagath Krishi Vikas Yojana. In this paper, the researcher exhibits the details of this scheme like features, objectives, criteria for area selection, fund allocation, etc.

Key words: Organic farming, PKVY, participatory guarantee system, organic farmers, organic food, etc.

1. Introduction

Organic food is holistic agriculture which avoids the use of synthetic fertilizers, and pesticides. Organic food rely on crop rotation, crop residues, animal manure, green manure, etc. and also maintain the soil productivity to supply plant nutrients and biological pest control, controlling weed insects and other pest. In India, there has been tremendous growth in organic agriculture. Globally India has 15th rank in terms of total land under organic cultivation and the organic farming area increased by more than 7 times i.e. from 1.86 million ha in 2004-05 to 14.90 million ha in 2015-16. Export of organic produce from India has been growing at a CAGR of 34.50 per cent from 4161 MT in 2002-03 to 263687 MT in 2015-16. The organic producers are more than 600000 in India.

The Government of India has launched schemes for promotion of the organic farming such as National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, National Project on Organic Farming, National Project Management of Soil Health and Fertility, etc. Most of the schemes could not achieve substantial success. The revamped Paramparakat Krishi Vikash Yojana (PKVY) under NMSA to promote organic farming through which assistance is provide for Rs.20000 per ha per farmer for 3 years. The government has sanctioned Rs. 412 crores to implement the PKVY in the financial years

2016-17. It promotes organic farming through adoption of organic village by cluster approach and participatory guarantee system of certification. The objective of the scheme was to produce agricultural products free from chemical and pesticides residues by adopting eco friendly technologies. It includes components such as mobilization, training of farmers and exposure visits by the farmers.

2. History of organic farming

Organic farming aims for human welfare without harming the environment and follows the principles of health, ecology, fairness and care for all including soil. The modern concept of organic farming combines the tradition, innovation and science. Although, history states that the movement for organic way of life recognized in 1905, it could gain ground after realizing the ill effects of modern agriculture in the late 1990s. In 1905, the British botanist Sir Albert Howard, often referred to as the father of modern organic agriculture, documented traditional Indian farming practice, and came to regard them as superior to conventional agriculture science. During 1940 the Masanobu Fukuoka, a microbiologist working in soil science and plant pathology, quit job as a research scientist, returned to his family's farm in Japan and devoted the next 30 years to develop a radical no-till organic farming method for growing the food grain, now it is known as "Fukuoka farming". Many other practices such as Rishi Krishi, Netueco farming, Homa farming, Panchagavya krishi and biodynamic farming are associated with organic agriculture. The organic farming minimizes energy consumption by 30.7% per unit of land by eliminating the energy required to manufacture synthetic fertilizers and pesticides by using internal farm inputs, thus result reducing the fuel using for transportation. India can emerge as global leader due to the presence of large number of organic producers like almost 7 lakh producers are in India. The farmers need support with technical knowledge and inputs besides marketing infrastructure. The major impediment for growth of organic farming in India is yield reduction for initial years due the reason for switch over from inorganic to organic, wide gap between the availability of organic source of nutrients and lack of pest & disease management options. Further, lack of support price for organically grown crops and marketing infrastructure are the major constraints in promotion of organic agriculture.

3 Objective of the study

The objective of the study is to examine the special subsidy scheme for the farmers for cultivating organic food products with special reference to PKVY in India.

4. Scope of the study

The study focuses on the PKVY scheme feature, objectives, area selection, fund allocation and expenditure. The study is based on the secondary data. The secondary data on fund allocation,

release and expenditure and other information was taken from website and other reports of Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

5 Environmental benefits of organic farming

Organic farming considers the medium and long-term effect of agricultural interventions on the agro-eco system. Organic farming aims to supply food whereas establishing an ecological balance to prevent soil fertility. It takes a proactive approach as against treating issues once they emerge.

Soil: The crop rotations, inter-cropping, symbiotic associations, cover crops, organic fertilizers and minimum tillage are central to organic practices in soil building practice. Nutrient and energy cycling are increased and the retentive abilities of the soil for nutrients and water are enhanced, compensating for the non-use of mineral fertilizers. Such management techniques also play an important role in the soil erosion control. The length of time that the soil is exposed to erosive forces is decreased, soil biodiversity is increased, and nutrient losses are reduced, helping to maintain and enhance soil productivity.

Water: In many agriculture areas, the pollution of groundwater courses with synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is a major problem. As the use of organic farming, they are replaced by organic fertilizers and through the use of the greater biodiversity in terms of species are cultivated and permanent vegetation, enhancing soil structure and water infiltration. Well managed organic system with better nutrient retentive abilities, greatly reduce the risk of ground water pollution.

Air: Organic farming reduces non-renewable energy use by decreasing agrochemical wants. It contributes to mitigating the greenhouse effect and global warming through its ability to sequester carbon in the soil. Many management practices used by the organic farming increase the return of carbon to the soil, raising productivity and favoring carbon storage.

Biodiversity: Organic farmers are custodians and users of biodiversity at all levels. At the genetic level, traditional and adapted seeds and breeds are most popular for their greater resistance to diseases and their resilience to climatically stress. At the species level, the diverse combinations of plants and animals optimize nutrient and energy cycling for agricultural production. At the ecosystem level, the upkeep of natural areas inside and around organic fields and absence of chemical inputs produce appropriate habitats for wildlife. The frequent use of under-utilized species reduces erosion of agro-biodiversity, creating a healthier gene pool.

6. Modified organism

The use of GMOs within organic systems is not permitted during any stages of organic food production, processing or handling. Organic agriculture is taking the precautionary approach and choosing to encourage natural biodiversity. The organic labels provide an assurance that GMOs haven't been used intentionally within the production and process of the organic products. This is one thing that cannot be guaranteed in conventional product, as labeling the presence of GMOs in food products has not however acquire force in most countries.

7. Ecological services

The impact of organic agriculture on natural resources favors interactions within the agro ecosystem those are vital for both agricultural production and nature conservation. Ecological services derived include soil farming and conditioning, soil stabilization, waste recycling, carbon sequestration, nutrients cycling, predation, pollination and habitats. By choosing for organic products, the consumer through his/her purchasing power promotes a less polluting agricultural system. The hidden costs of agriculture to the environment in terms of natural resources degradation are reduced.

8. Participatory guarantee system in India

Participatory guarantee system means locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and their built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange. They represent an alternative to the third party certification, especially to local markets and short supply chains are adopted. They can also complement of third party certification with a private label that brings additional guarantees and transparency. It enables the direct participation of producers, consumers and other stakeholders. Participatory guarantee system is revisiting the way organic certification started a few decades ago. At an equivalent time, many PGS have existed for over the 40 years. The development and professionalization of the organic sector, accompanied by increased international trade has called for third party certification to become the norm in most developed organic markets; nevertheless, PGS have never stopped to exist and serve organic producers and consumers eager to maintain local economies and direct, transparent relationships. Thousands of organic producers and consumers are now verified through PGS initiatives in and around the world. Current status of registered farmers and certificates generated in India are given below:

Local groups & farmers registered	Groups : 7441 Farmers (Approved) : 235979 Not Approved : 30930 Total : 266909
Certificates generated	Active : 58737 Expired : 11809 Total : 70546

Source: PGS, India.

The data shows that there were 7441 farmer groups are registered under PGS systems and about 235979 farmers are approved and 30930 farmers are not approved from PGS system in India. The organic certified farmers are 58737 and expired certified farmers are 11809.

9. Paramparagath Krishi Vikas Yojana in India

Paramparagath Krishi Vikas Yojana was launched in April, 2015 to support and promote organic farming and thereby improving soil health. This scheme encourages the farmers to adopt eco friendly concept of cultivation and reduce their dependence on fertilizers and agricultural chemicals to improve yields. PKVY is one of the schemes under National Missions for Sustainable Agriculture to promote organic farming through which assistance is provide for Rs.50000 per hectare per farmer in three years. It is proposed to develop 10000 clusters with a size of 20 Ha so as to increase the area 2 lakh ha in 3 years. The government has sanction Rs.300 crores during 2015-16. About 7141 clusters have been formed in 28 states and UTs. PKVY organic farming is promoted through cluster approach and PGS of certification. The financial assistance will be given to clusters on different sub-components for mobilization of farmers, for organic seeds, to harvesting biological nitrogen, etc. It includes different components such as mobilization of farmers, training of farmers and exposure visit by farmers, quality control, soil sample analysis, process documentation, inspection of fields of cluster members, residue analysis, certification charges and administrative expenses for certification, conversion practice, practices that will transit from current practice to organic farming, which include procurement of organic inputs production units and biological nitrogen harvest planting. The features of this scheme are as follows:

- The total amount of budget allocation in 2015-16 is Rs.300 cores.
- To promote the organic farming in India.
- To implement the organic farming through cluster approach with 50 or more farmers and having total of 50 acres.
- The amount allocated per acre is Rs.20000 for each farmer with duration of 3 years.
- Targeted clusters for 3 years are 10000 cutlers and 5 lakh acres.

10. Objectives of PKVY

Organic agriculture may be production of agricultural product free from chemicals and pesticides residues by adopting eco friendly low cost technologies. Parampragath Krishi Vikas Yojana is an elaborated element of soil health management of National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture. Under PKVY, organic farming is promoted through adoption of organic village by cluster approach and PGS certification.

11. Organic area selection criteria

The cluster chosen for organic farming shall be 50 acres in extent and in as contiguous a form as possible. In order to facilitate this, the ceiling of subsidy that a farmer is eligible shall be a maximum of one hectare and the total financial assistance eligible for a 50 acre cluster shall be a most of Rs.10 lakhs for farmer members and Rs. 4.95 lakh for mobilization and PGS certification. Of the total number of farmers in a cluster, a minimum of 65 per cent and marginal farmer should belong to the small categories. Thus, minimum criteria of inclusion should as far as practicable be fulfilled at cluster level and where not possible, it should be satisfied at block/taluk or district level. Organic farming shall be promoted in such areas like hilly, tribal and also rain fed areas where utilization of chemical fertilizers and pesticide is less.

12. Conclusion

In India, moving towards the natural fertilizers would be the best option in order to avail the better and healthy food for getting high nutrients. To achieve better healthy life, shifting back to organic farming which practiced olden days would be right option. Organic farming provides quality food without adversely affecting the soil health and the environment. This provides the employment opportunities and brings prosperity in the region. In addition, there is a huge international demand for organic products. Promoting organic farming techniques only leaves India best poised to cash in on the immense export potential of this food. The present government is trying to give more value to organic farming in India. Hence, the farmers are used the scheme facilities and promote the organic farming through certified organic farming.

13. Reference

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