



# FACTORS INFLUENCING THE ADOPTION OF ORGANIC FARMING IN BELGAUM DISTRICT, KARNATAKA

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## ABSTRACT:

Organic farming produces safe and nutritious food as it helps prevent soil pollution by stopping risky chemical reactions in the soil and avoiding produce contamination, as well as soil erosion, by wind and rain. It has been found that the nutritional value was an important factor that influences consumers' preferences in purchasing chemical free vegetable, followed by desire, freshness, health effect and taste. The present study deliberated to find out the economic condition of organic framers in Belgaum district, Karnataka. The objectives were to determine the farmers' knowledge about the economic aspect of organic farming, and to study the factors influencing the adoption of organic farming. Belgaum district was chosen to conduct the survey. Results of the study revealed that majority of the respondents had good knowledge about the economic aspect of organic farming, while majority of them were influenced by the following factors such as market demand, cost of production, lack of soil fertility, concern towards environment, personal interest, being health conscious etc., to take up organic farming.

**Index Terms: Organic, Chemical, Farming, Soil, Health**

## INTRODUCTION:

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM, 2000) has defined organic agriculture as 'a process that develops a viable and sustainable agro ecosystem'. Interest in organically produced food is increasing throughout the world in response to concerns about intensive agricultural practices and their potential effect on human health as well as on the environment. The growth in consumer demand for organically produced food and the standardization of organic farming methods have created a distinguished marketing opportunity for agricultural producers.

Shinogi K. C. (2011) conducted a study on the assessment, adoption, sustainability and constraints of organic farming in Kerala. He selected sample from four districts of Kerala and noticed many factors responsible for the

adoption of organic farming in Kerala. The study also pointed out that institutional support for organic farming in Kerala was significant in terms of technical and financial support. According to him the main constraints for the growth of organic farming are fear of initial yield loss, high cost for the certification process and lack of a reliable package of practices for organic farming.

Organic farming is based on ecological cycles and procedures; therefore, it diminishes the use of exterior contributions. This minimizes resource utilization of the farms and restricts nutrient heaps in the system. It lessens the danger of phosphorus and nitrogen eutrophication and evades over fertilization. Organic livestock farming is based on environment friendly production, maintaining animals in good health, realizing animal benefit values thereby generating yields of high class. Organic livestock farming meets the demands of the rising number of consumers (Sundrum, 2012).

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Aim:** To elicit information on the factors influencing organic farming by the farmers in Belgaum district, Karnataka.

### Objectives:

- Determine the farmers' knowledge about the economic aspect of organic farming.
- Study the factors influencing the adoption of organic farming.

### Hypotheses:

H<sub>1</sub> - The farmers do not have adequate knowledge about the economic aspect of organic farming.

H<sub>2</sub> - The farmers are not aware about the factors influencing the adoption of organic farming.

### Population and Sample:

The present study was structured on eliciting information on the farmers' knowledge about the economic aspect of organic farming, and to find out the factors influencing the adoption of organic farming. A questionnaire was formulated to elicit information on the farmers' knowledge of varied aspects of organic farming. The pilot study was conducted on 10 percent of the sample to test the reliability and the validity of tool selected for the study and feasibility of the present study. Based on the results of pilot study, necessary modifications were made. The main study comprised of 100 organic farmers through purposive sampling technique. The data collected through survey method was tabulated and analyzed, and appropriate statistical tests were applied wherever necessary.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The analyzed data and corresponding discussions are presented below:

Results revealed that most of the respondents (47%) were in the age group of 35 - 44 years followed by 36 percent aged between 25-34 years; and 17 percent were in the range of 45 years and above. Regarding the gender, 73.3 percent of respondents were men and 27 percent were women. Regarding education, 38% of the respondents

completed their education up to SSLC, 11 percent of respondents completed their education up to PUC while 30 percent of respondents were graduates. Most organic farmers were from nuclear families. Majority (58%) of family's annual income ranged between Rs. 1-2 Lakhs; while 39 percent of the organic farmers had 4-6 acres of land.

TABLE – 1

## Response on Ranking Order of Crops to get Primary Source of Income

N=100

No.	Type of Crops	Preference/Rank of Respondents (%)				
		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
1	Vegetables	4	37	22	6	1
2	Fruits	3	1	18	12	2
3	Barley	1	1	3	1	0
4	Cotton	0	5	6	8	2
5	Paddy	7	4	6	3	5
6	Wheat	2	3	8	5	2
7	Sugar cane	32	22	7	0	0
8	Others (Groundnuts, Turmeric, Soya bean etc.,)	51	19	5	5	0

From table 1, it was observed that first ranking was given for other products like groundnuts, turmeric, soya bean etc.; second and third ranking was given to growing vegetables; fourth ranking to growing fruits such as guava and musambi; while last ranking was given to growing of paddy.

TABLE – 2

## Response on Investment, Returns and Profit on Major Organic Farming

N=100

No.	Aspects	Cost (Rs)	
		Mean	SD
1	Investment Cost (Rs)	16,263	11,293
2	Returns Cost (Rs)	41,368	11,672
3	Profit (Rs)	35,369	13,583

Table 2 shows the investment, returns and profit on major organic farming. The main investments were done for land preparation, harvesting, marketing and sowing amounted to Rs.16263. A return of Rs. 41,368 and profit of Rs. 35,369 was observed. This showed a moderate standard deviation for all three aspects.

TABLE – 3

## Response on Factors that Influenced to take up Organic Farming

N=100

No.	Influenced factor @	Respondents	
		Number	Percent
1	Market demand	32	32.0
2	Cost of production	20	20.0
3	Lack of soil fertility	29	29.0
4	Concerned towards environment	28	28.0
5	Personal interest	71	71.0
6	Being health conscious	34	34.0

## @ Multiple Response

Table 3 indicates that 71 percent of the respondents undertook up organic farming for their personal interest, 34 percent were health conscious followed by 32 percent of them being influenced by the market demand. Around 29 percent, 28 percent and 20 percent of respondents respectively were influenced due to lack of soil fertility, concern towards environment and cost of production. The second hypothesis that the farmers are not aware about the factors influencing the adoption of organic farming was rejected, as results showed that majority of them were aware of the beneficial factors of organic farming.

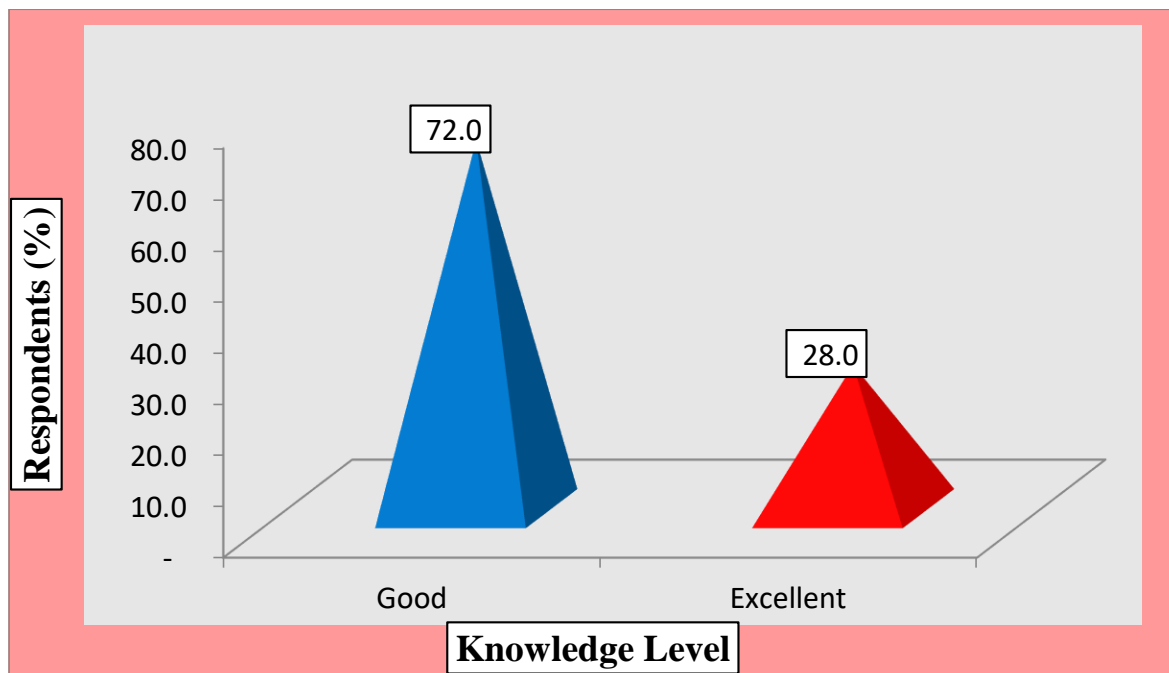
TABLE – 4

## Response on Knowledge about The Economic Aspect of Organic Farming

N=100

No.	Knowledge level	Respondents	
		Number	Percent
1	Good (61-80%)	72	72.0
2	Excellent (81-100%)	28	28.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It was evident from table 18 and figure 11 that 72 percent of respondents had good knowledge and 28 percent of the respondents had excellent knowledge about the economic aspect of organic farming.



**Figure 1: Response on Knowledge about the Economic aspect of Organic Farming**

## CONCLUSION:

### The major findings of this study were:

- It was observed that majority of the farmers were knowledgeable of the economic aspects of organic farming.
- Most organic farmers were influenced by factors like being health conscious, influenced by market conditions, and their own personal interest to take up organic farming.

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