



ORGANIC FARMING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY: BENEFICIAL TO OUR SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT:

Organic farming and food processing practices are wide-ranging and necessitate the development of socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable food production system. Food quality and safety are the two important factors that have gained ever-increasing attention in general consumers. Because of the health and environmental benefits and trade opportunities associated with organic agriculture, governments may pass regulations that encourage farmers to shift to organic methods, through tax reductions/exemptions, subsidies, or support in research and marketing. Conventionally grown foods have immense adverse health effects due to the presence of higher pesticide residue, more nitrate, heavy metals, hormones, antibiotic residue, and also genetically modified organisms. The practice aims to protect human health and conserve, maintain or enhance natural resources, with the goal to preserve the quality of the environment for future generations while being economically sustainable. Organic farming has grown rapidly throughout all over the world. One of the most valuable benefits of organic farming is the improvement in soil quality, which can be expressed in terms of chemical, physical and biological properties and their interactions. To promote food security and sustainability, ecologically intensive farming systems should reliably produce adequate yields of high-quality food, enhance the environment, be profitable, and promote social wellbeing. Although India was far behind in the adoption of organic farming due to several reasons, presently it has achieved rapid growth in organic agriculture and now becomes one of the largest organic producers in the world. Therefore, organic farming has a great impact on the health of a nation like India by ensuring sustainable development.

Key words: - *Organic farming, Environment, Advantages, Social impact, Government scheme, Sustainable Development.*

INTRODUCTION :

Organic farming is an agricultural producing system which promotes sustainable use of resources and bring natural balance in the environment. It tries to enhance agricultural health that includes biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological health. It avoids the use of herbicide, chemical fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides. This farming focuses on enrichment of soil rather than nurturing the plant and is based on the concept “Feed the soil not the plant” and aims for human welfare. It is the combination of tradition, innovation and science to benefit the quality of life and environment.

Organic farming is growing in India. However, while a switch to 'natural' farming has its benefits, scientists argue that it may also result in lower crop productivity, thereby endangering food security in the country.

“Organic farming is our duty,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, while addressing the nation on the 75th Independence Day on August 15.

Organic farming also known as ecological farming or biological farming, is an agricultural system that uses fertilizers of organic origin such as compost manure, green manure, and bone meal and places emphasis on techniques such as crop rotation and companion planting. It originated early in the 20th century in reaction to rapidly changing farming practices. Certified organic agriculture accounts for 70 million hectares (170 million acres) globally, with over half of that total in Australia. Organic farming continues to be developed by various organizations today. Biological pest control, mixed cropping and the fostering of insect predators are encouraged. Organic standards are designed to allow the use of naturally-occurring substances while prohibiting or

strictly limiting synthetic substances. For instance, naturally-occurring pesticides such as pyrethrin are permitted, while synthetic fertilizers and pesticides are generally prohibited. Synthetic substances that are allowed include, for example, copper sulfate, elemental sulfur and Ivermectin. Genetically modified organisms, nanomaterials, human sewage sludge, plant growth regulators, hormones, and antibiotic use in livestock husbandry are prohibited. Organic farming advocates claim advantages in sustainability, openness, self-sufficiency, autonomy and independence, health, food security, and food safety. 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. Most of the organic growers have expressed that lack of support price for organically grown crops and marketing infrastructure as the major constraint in promotion of organic agriculture. Although, much progress on research in organic farming has been done, the new emerging areas of human health benefits, understanding the economics with environmental markets, climate friendly farms and carbon farming with organic farming system models needs to be addressed in future. The certification systems of grower group, participatory guarantee system, know your farm and know your food should be promoted in large scale.

Aims and objectives of organic farming:

- To produce high quality food in sufficient quantity.
- To increase the fertility of soil for longer period of time.
- To process organic products using renewable resources.
- To produce long lasting and good quality textiles.
- To minimize all forms of pollution.
- To produce fully biodegradable organic products.
- To develop valuable and sustainable ecosystem.
- To maintain sociological and ecological balance.
- To minimize health problems due to the presence of harmful pesticides.
- To increase food quality and safety.

Advantages of organic farming

- Organic farming is environmentally friendly since it helps improve soil fertility and thereby the repeated usage of that particular patch of land for agricultural purposes is possible.
- Organic farming provides the option of enriching the soil with organic compost and preventing soil from chemicals.
- It helps in reducing deforestation caused due to agricultural practices.
- Organic farming is seen as a safer alternative. Chemicals do not find a place in this farming technique; farmers use only organic products such as cow dung instead.
- Organic farming helps in sustainable rural environment, sound health of soil and creating ecological balance etc
- To conserve natural resources and biodiversity
- The organic agriculture has a greater scope of minimizing all forms of pollutants and brings sustainability.
- Prevent toxic material present in the food.
- Prevent different types of the pollutions.
- The foods become healthier natural and tasty.
- It also helps in providing pesticide residue free food reducing the pollution and also generates employment.
- Prevent residues present in the food material
- This type of farming should be eco-friendly should not affect the environment
- We should decrease the soil degradation
- No effect to the biological diversity in the system

- By the organic farming we should get products they could not have any chemical residues and toxic substances
- Instead of using the artificial fertilizers natural fertilizers like bio compost and other are been used

Impact of organic farming on society:

The social impact of organic farming is considerable as mentioned in the IFOAM's Principal Aims. The main benefit according by some organic farmers in developing countries (e.g., China and India) is that they now have better standards of living. Good product prices, low unemployment, dropped rural emigration, and reduced health risks (from chemicals) are the results of farming organic (MAF, 2005). In summary, the organic food movement apparently had its roots in a philosophy of life, beginning perhaps with Rudolf Steiner, a notable German thinker, in the 1920s. One of its common believes is that natural products are good, whereas man-made chemicals are not, or at least not as good as natural 26 M.E. Ortiz Escobar & N.V. Hue ones. This partially explains why organic farming avoids the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Certainly, organic farming has many benefits ranging from reduced environmental pollution to increased soil quality. Let us hope that organic farming will lead all farmers, and their consumers, toward a more productive, prosperous, sustainable, and healthy future.

Government schemes for the organic farming

National project on organic farming (NPOF) o National horticultural mission (NHM) o National project on management of soil health and fertility (NPMSH and F). There was an organization called national organic farming association (NOFA) it will educate the farmers about the importance of organic farming and it will release monthly magazines and also yearly calendars and they also give training to the farmers. In India, organic and natural farming

are being promoted through several schemes including the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and more. According to one definition, organic food production also includes farming techniques that do not use genetically modified organisms, growth hormones, and antibiotics.

CONCLUSION:

Organic farming is seen as a safer alternative. Chemicals do not find a place in this farming technique; farmers use only organic products such as cow dung instead. In natural farming, however, no external inputs—including bio-fertilizers—are used (this includes zero-budget natural farming, which is being encouraged by the Indian government

Ever since there has been urbanization and industrialization, the population explosion has also been in one of the causes of concern for environmentalists and governments alike. To fulfil the hunger of our growing population, harmful agricultural practices have been employed to increase crop production and decrease the time of production through artificial ways. These ways include the use of chemical fertilizers, harmful pesticides, fungicides, herbicides and insecticides to improve the production rate of the crops. While these techniques might help farmers to improve their yield, they are short-sighted in nature and can cause poisoning of the food we consume. Hence organic farming is the ultimate solution to prevent this disaster upon human civilization. Certainly, organic farming has many benefits ranging from reduced environmental pollution to increased soil quality. Organic farming is one of the best farming methods to decrease the cost of the production and also to increase the quality of the product and the product should be free from the chemical residues and other toxic substances. Let us hope that organic farming

will lead all farmers, and their consumers, toward a more productive, prosperous, sustainable, and healthy future. Organic agriculture, in general, is recognized to produce lower yields compared to conventional agriculture, but at the same time, to be more profitable and environmentally friendly, providing equally or more nutritious pesticide-free foods, and additional agroecosystem and social benefits.

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