

Organic Farming:

SCENARIO AND VISION TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

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INTRODUCTION

Producing enough food to feed the expanding population has been India's biggest challenge since gaining its freedom. As a result, irrigation water, nutrients, or pesticides are infused into high-yielding cultivars. In addition to causing worries about soil health, environmental pollution, pesticide toxicity and the sustainability of agricultural production, this combination of high-yielding production techniques has assisted the nation in creating a food surplus. Therefore, scientists and decision-makers are reevaluating agricultural systems that rely more heavily on biological inputs than on extensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Organic farming is

a method of farming system which primarily aimed at cultivating the land and raising crops in a natural way. Organic farming, agriculture system that uses ecologically based pest controls and biologically fertilizers derived largely from animal and plant wastes and nitrogen – fixing cover crops. Modern organic farming was developed as a response to the environmental harm caused by the use of chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers in conventional agriculture and it has numerous ecological benefits. Compared with conventional agriculture, organic farming uses fewer pesticides, reduce soil erosion, decreases nitrate leaching into groundwater

and surfacewater and recycle animal wastes back into the farm.

The foundation of organic farming is the pursuit of environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Although everyone wants sustainable agriculture, progress in that direction has proven difficult to come by. In addition to meeting the food needs of the current generation in an environmentally friendly manner, organic farming also preserves our environment and satisfies the needs of future generations. The main traits include preserving soil fertility over the long term by maintaining levels of organic matter, promoting soil biological activity, careful mechanical intervention, nitrogen self-sufficiency through the use of legumes and biological nitrogen fixation, effectively recycling organic materials like crop residues and livestock wastes and weeds, and disease and pest control relying primarily on crop rotations, natural predators, diversity, and organic management.

BENEFITS OF ORGANIC FARMING

- ✓ More nutritional value compared to conventionally grown products
- ✓ Tastes better than non organic food
- ✓ Safe guards natural flora , fauna and natural habitat
- ✓ Safety and healthier environment for the younger generations.
- ✓ Farmer will save money , since they can use mostly what's available in the farm itself.
- ✓ No toxins are added to soil , water and air.





SCENARIO OF ORGANIC FARMING IN ABROAD AND INDIA

Organic agriculture is practised in 187 countries and 72.3 million hectares of agricultural land were managed organically by atleast 3.1 million farmers. Europe has the second largest area (15.6 million hectares), followed by Latin America (8 million hectares). Globally 1.5 per cent of farmland is organic. Australia has the largest organic agricultural area.(35.7 million ha), followed by Argentina (3.6 million hectares) and china (3.1million hectares). Asia has 6.1 million ha of organic farmland which is 0.4 per cent of the total agricultural area in the region which forms about 9 per cent of the global organic agricultural land.

Organic farming is in a nascent stage in India. About 2.78 million hectare of farmland was under

organic cultivation. This is 2 per cent of the 140.1 million hectare net sown area in the country. Madhya Pradesh tops the list with 0.76 million ha of area under organic cultivation i.e over 27 per cent of India's total organic cultivation area. Uttrakhand is the first state to establish organic commodities board and created organic export zones by establishing organic bio-villages. Sikkim became the first state in the world to become fully organic and other states including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets. Lakshadweep is the first union territory to become 100 per cent organic the entire 32 square kilometre geographical land area of the UT was declared as organic after receiving required certifications and declarations under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) centres.

CONSTRAINTS

- **Incompetent** :- lack of inadequate infrastructure and marketing of the product
- Lack of knowledge/labour intensive
- Certification process as organic farm and organic food is time consuming.
- **Less production** :- During initial years production is less in the organic farms.
- Shorter shelf life of organic products

CONCLUSION

Organic farming yields more nutritious and safe food . The popularity of organic food is growing dramatically as consumer seeks the organic food that are thought to be healthier and safer. The organic farming process is more eco-friendly than conventional farming. The government is running many schemes to promote organic farming. But the transition towards organic farming is not feasible without resolving its constraints especially for small land holders. The highly severe constraints faced by farmers like decline in crop productivity, non availability of water for irrigation, costly labour, non availability of market and minimum support prices, irregular monsoon and fluctuation in temperarure. Government should frame policies to overcome these problems in cultivation of organic crops so that their planning and its execution can be fruitful both for the farmers and the economy.