

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ORGANIC FARMING

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INTRODUCTION

Organic farming is a holistic approach which provide zero impact to the environment. The key reason behind organic farming is to safeguard earth's resources and produce healthy crop. Organic farming include science with innovation and tradition which is adopted by 130 countries in the world. Organic farming is now promoted for reestablishment of soil health for better environment. It is an exceptional farming system which maintain soil biological activities and biodiversity. Organic farming extends an encouraging pathway for entrepreneurship development among rural youth through various enterprise prospects in the complete value chain right from production to distribution where different

group approaches viz., cooperatives, FPOs offers ways to value addition as well as market linkages. However organic farming is depending on mechanical, agronomic and biological method for crop production where natural farming is subgroup of organic farming. As India is 2nd most populated country in the world where most of them are rely on agriculture and gradually moving towards adopting organic farming and stand in 6th position under area use for organic farming in India. Government of India also offers various schemes like Mission Organic Value Chain Development, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana which give support through certification, training and marketing.

State Wise Cultivated Area under Organic Certification during 2023-24

S. NO.	State Name	Organic Area (In Ha)	Conversion Area (In Ha)	Total Area (In Ha)
1	Madhya Pradesh	6,12,816.04	5,35,420.03	11,48,236.07
2	Maharashtra	2,67,229.29	7,33,851.03	10,01,080.32
3	Rajasthan	2,15,299.44	3,64,792.79	5,80,092.22
4	Gujarat	92,333.51	5,88,486.48	6,80,819.99
5	Odisha	77,696.34	1,03,325.94	1,81,022.28
6	Sikkim	75,472.85	256.93	75,729.78
7	Uttar Pradesh	52,888.78	13,502.55	66,391.34
8	Uttarakhand	51,628.19	50,192.21	1,01,820.39
9	Kerala	36,208.78	8,055.13	44,263.91
10	Karnataka	30,612.23	40,473.76	71,085.99

CONCEPT OF ORGANIC FARMING

Organic farming implies that a kind of farming methods which avoids chemicals, toxic pesticides and synthetic fertilisers to keep the soil healthy and avoid harmful effect on environment by applying organic waste like animal, crop and farm wastes with biological materials. Organic farming is getting more attention among farmers, scientist, policy maker and entrepreneurs as it reduces use of chemical inputs and develop the resource's quality and provides an opportunity to raise rural employment.



NEED AND BENEFITS OF ORGANIC FARMING

- ❖ Organic farming conserves good soil health, decreases water pollution by reducing the use of fertilisers, pesticides for sustainable agriculture.
- ❖ By decreasing the cost of inputs, organic farming gives economic sustainability with suitable market access.
- ❖ Organic farming improving the health of farming community due to less dependence on chemicals.
- ❖ Organic farming provides healthy agricultural products to human kind.
- ❖ As a result of organic farming, produce contain high nutritional value with vitamin, antioxidants and minerals and also free from chemical residues.
- ❖ Export of organic products is one of the emerging potential for the farming community.

MAJOR CHALLENGES IN ORGANIC FARMING

Production of organic food is still an emerging stage in India. Therefore, different challenges affects the income as well as livelihood of farming community. Some of the major challenges are as follows:

- ✿ In the certification stage, organic products sometime rejected as the bio products which are available in the market are not completely organic.
- ✿ The process like lengthy certification process, high cost of certification, inadequate infrastructure creates problems of farmer.
- ✿ Government provides subsidies in Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India) but farmers are not allowed to export their products.
- ✿ Organic products are costly due to less organic production, marketing as well as distribution chain.
- ✿ In organic farming, different task has to be operated like crop rotation, hand weeding, maintaining soil health, so it is more labour-intensive than conventional farming.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR ORGANIC FARMING

1. Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North-Eastern Regions (MOVCDNER)

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched a Central scheme on "Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region" by recognising potentialities of organic farming in NE region of the country during 2015-18. Main aim of the scheme to develop certified organic products to link consumers with growers and to improve value chain from input to brand building. It encourages third party organic certification through Farmer Producer Organisations. Farmers are given support of Rs 25,000 per hectare for up to three years for biofertilizers and organic manure. Support for creation of FPOs, capacity building, post-harvest infrastructure up to Rs 2 crore are

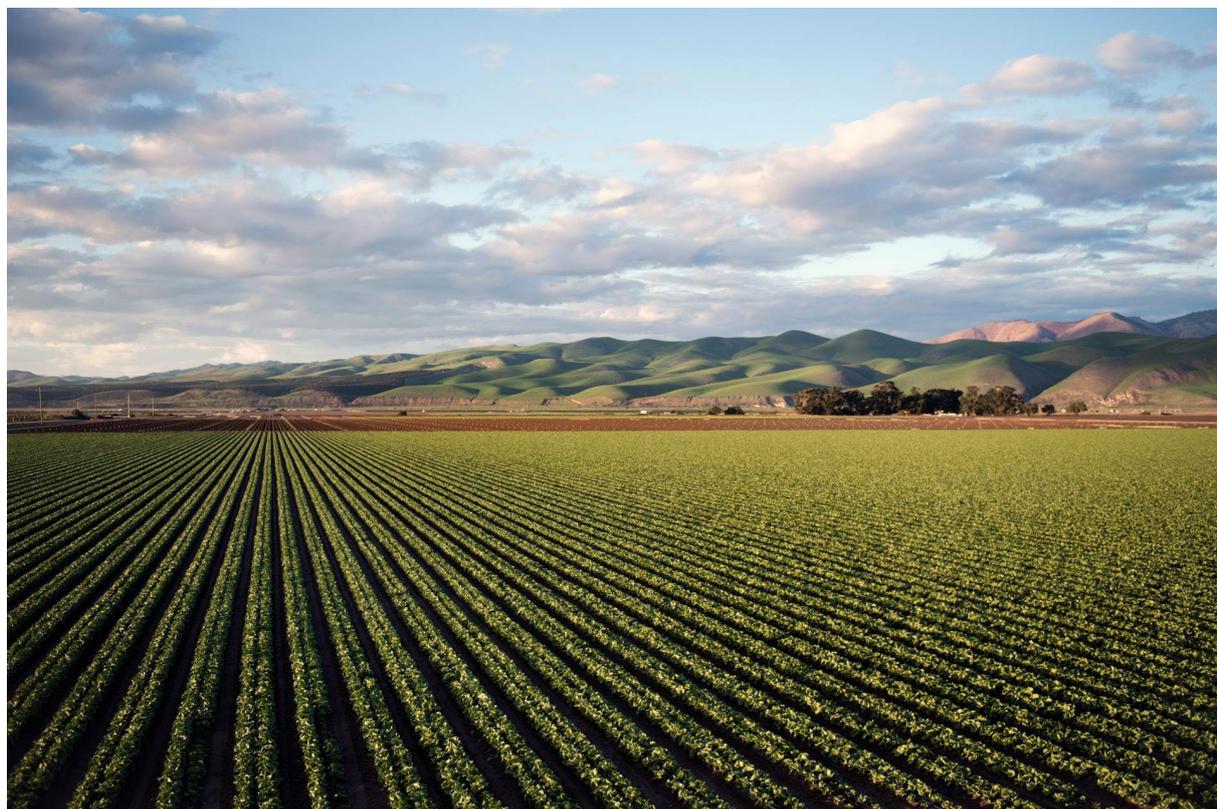
also provided in the scheme. Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) launched an "Indian Organic Integrity Data-Base" to assist consumers to validated the authenticity of the organic food. It also introduced a common logo i.e. "Jaivik Bharat" for organic food. It would bring more marginal and small farmers under the sphere of certified organic markets.

2. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

PKVY launched in 2015 and one of the first comprehensive scheme where 100 percent share in the union Territories, 90:10 in NE and Hilly states and 60:40 in other states. State government implemented the scheme. A cluster of 20 ha is given financial support up to 1 ha with Rs 50,000/-.

3. Features of the PKVY

- ✿ The cluster should be 20 ha or 50 acres and financial assistance should be Rs 10 lakhs for farmers and for mobilization the amount should be Rs 4.95 lakh along with PGS Certification and subsidy ceiling of per farmer one hectare.
- ✿ In the cluster, there should be about 65 percent small and marginal farmers.
- ✿ Near about 30 per cent of the budget allocations for women farmers/ beneficiaries



PRESENT STATUS OF ORGANIC FARMING INDIA

Economy of India which is basically based on agriculture provides GDP to the nation as well as employment. Rice, wheat, cotton and legumes are widely produced in the nation as the climate, soil conditions and topography are suitable for agricultural approach. Now a days, government initiated to encourage organic farming by providing different programmes, training, and accepting various schemes.

Area for the year 2023-24

Cultivated Area (Organic)	17,11,107.27 Ha
Cultivated Area (In conversion)	27,64,729.64 Ha
Wild Harvest Collection Area	28,50,156.48 Ha

Production for the year 2023-24

Farm Production (Organic)	32,28,233.03 MT
Farm Production (In conversion)	3,22,248.24 MT
Wild Harvest Production	23,740.60 MT

Organic export for the year 2023-24

Total Export Quantity	2,61,029 MT
Total Export value (INR)	4007.91 Crore
Total Export Value (US\$)	494.80 million USD

State wise Organic Farm Production for the year 2023-24

S. NO.	State Name	Organic Production (In MT)	Conversion Production (In MT)	Total Production (In MT)
1	Maharashtra	10,44,382.88	1,16,847.77	11,61,230.65
2	Madhya Pradesh	8,49,782.72	50,303.77	9,00,086.49
3	Rajasthan	3,31,358.02	69,568.96	4,00,926.98
4	Karnataka	1,97,328.09	0.00	1,97,328.09
5	Gujarat	1,76,551.25	63,639.41	2,40,190.66
6	Uttar Pradesh	1,59,149.53	0.32	1,59,149.85
7	Odisha	1,37,635.67	21,885.72	1,59,521.40
8	Uttarakhand	44,745.43	0.00	44,745.43
9	Kerala	41,128.53	0.00	41,128.53
10	Bihar	39,937.73	0.00	39,937.73

CONCLUSION

Organic farming highlights the use of locally accessible natural resources. India got first rank in practicing natural farming and Sikkim was considered as the first organic state in the world in 2018. Organic farming maintain the soil health and as well as biodiversity. It creates the employments opportunities for rural youth. Government support and right supply chain can help upcoming entrepreneur in reducing the price of expensive organic methods, organic produce etc. However, knowledge and awareness are also important to understand the benefits of organic farming.