

NATURAL FARMING VS ORGANIC FARMING

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INTRODUCTION:

“Natural farming is a farming practice that imitates the way of nature,” it was practiced in Japan by Masanobu Fukuoka and Mokichi Okada. It is described as “the natural way of farming” or “do nothing farming”.

“Organic Farming is a holistic system designed to optimize the productivity and fitness of diverse communities within the agro-ecosystem, including soil, organisms, plants, livestock and people. The principal goal of organic production is to develop enterprises that are sustainable and harmonious with the environment”.

WHAT IS NATURAL FARMING?

In principle, practitioners of natural farming maintain that it is not a technique but a view, or a way of seeing ourselves as a part of nature, rather than separate from or above it. Accordingly, the methods themselves vary widely depending on culture and local conditions.

PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL FARMING

Five principles include:

- No weeding
- No-tillage
- No pesticides or herbicides
- No fertilizers
- No pruning

What is Organic farming?

The principles of organic farming are intended to refocus our minds on how farmers take care of the soil and manage the biological life of the earth. Organic agriculture includes not only the management of the soil but also the water, plants and animals used in



farming. Yearly third party audits authenticate that farmers are required to prove what they used on their land and host an annual inspection.

Principles of Organic farming:

The four principles of Organic farming are

1. It should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plants, animals and humans as one and indivisible.
2. It should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.
3. It should build on relationships that ensure fairness about the familiar environment and life processes.
4. It should be managed in a prudent and responsible manner to protect the health and wellbeing of current and future generations and the environment.

Similarities between natural farming and Organic farming

- Natural and organic both are chemical free and more or less poison free farming methods.
- Both systems discourage farmers from using any chemical fertilizers, pesticides on plants and in all agricultural practices.
- Both farming methods encourage farmers to use local breeds of seeds, and native varieties of vegetables, grains, pulses and other crops.
- Organic and natural farming methods promote nonchemical and homemade pest methods.

Key difference between natural farming and Organic farming

1. Organic farming, organic fertilizers and manures like compost, vermin-compost, cow dung manure, external sources. In natural farming, neither chemical nor organic fertilizers are added to the soil. In fact, no external fertilizers are added to soil or give to plants whatsoever.

2. In natural farming, decomposition of organic matter by microbes and earthworms is encouraged right on the soil surface itself, which gradually adds nutrition in the soil, over the period.

Organic farming still requires basic agro practices like plowing, tilling, mixing of manures, weeding, etc. to be performed.

CONCLUSION

Similarly, I heard many people speak highly of organic farming/foods because they don't use pesticides, have fertilizers, growth hormones, antibiotics or GMO's and their reason for supporting this form of agriculture is because of the elimination of these items.

I believe the one commonality both these forms of agriculture have is that they are perceived or understood to be more sustainable than commodity farming.