

The Future is Organic but it's More Than Organic

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Introduction

Conventional agriculture of the future will be organic not because of our thinking but of some truths revealed. This paper will suggest that the future is organic because the design or processes that have shaped our current agri food system are changing and demanding new and largely organic approach. Efforts are being done to make the current model/system more sustainable ecologically sound which complements humans as well as environment.

Does agriculture designed to be sustainable?

According to Mc Donough and Braungart, (2002). Design is the first sign of intention. Agriculture was designed for exporting huge quantities of different raw commodities to different countries around the globe. To support the claim that future is organic, we must first clarify what organic really is. As defined "Organic" is just a production system which is ecologically sound for human food production along with complementing environment to flourish along production. The organic standards are not followed perfectly on all farms. But like other common terms such as sustainable, alternative exists but it may or may not compliance with term "organic" depends upon the person. There is nothing in organic that couldn't and shouldn't be done on conventional farms. In an paper (Stockdale and Watson, 2009) noted that the higher biological activity, biodiversity, and bio fertility of soil under organic management derives not from organics.

Example: complex crop rotations are not for show. On a farm crop rotation is a tool of production, and main tool on an farm. Crop rotation serves to manage weeds, soil nutrition and hence promote plant health and promote yield.

Organic Yields

The main argument often heard for rejecting organic approaches in food production is that higher yields often depends on resource intensive inputs. We are so much bounded that fertilizers and biocides are essential to high crop yields which eventually rejects the organic yield. After studying USDA researchers (Cavigelli *et al.*2008) suggested that organic yields



can be quite comparable to conventional yields after 3-5 years. Researchers reported 6 year yields in corn, soybean, and wheat under conventional (no tillage and chisel plough) and organic management (2, 3, 4, 5, year rotations). The results were there was 24% lower production of corn in organic management as compared to conventional. The main reason for lower production was insufficient N and weed management issues. Organic soybean yield was 16% lower but the wheat yield didn't differ between organic and conventional. After a time interval no difference in corn yield or in soybean yield was found between organic and conventional production system in 21 year trials conducted. Similarly in 9 year trial conducted. Soybean or for wheat when grown in conventional versus organic systems. Organic management will clearly able to provide N and pest control on farm as compared to off farm inputs as in conventional systems. However it should be noted that for proper yields in organic systems needs proper crop rotation and takes time to give better yield.

Can organic feed the world?

As in today's scenario we are concerning about organic agriculture because we have excessively exploited the inputs used in conventional farming. Due to over exploitation of natural resources it is further more difficult to obtain higher organic yields. According to UNEP- UNCTAD(2008) the issue in world is not "how to feed people" rather "how to end poverty and hunger". Organic farming is viewed there as an enabling step for a social change and development not just a way of producing food. So the answer for "how to end poverty and hunger" are quite different for "how to feed the world".

Conclusion

- The future as we all appreciate will be organic
- Agriculture as much of modern society think is part of certain group will understand it's real importance and shifts towards subsistence farming
- As a system changes other changes can be observed such as production, processing, globalization etc
- In areas where organic is naturally not suitable small patches of organic farming along with livestock is adjustable
- The sooner the policy makers and government understand the importance of organic they should introduce it in primary and secondary level of education system. So that whole nation can understand the importance of organic.