

## Organic Farming

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### **What Is Organic Farming?**

Organic 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 benefits the environment by lessening pollution, decreasing soil degradation, focusing on biological productivity, preserving soil from erosion, etc. This farming method increases the fertility of the soil without creating any infliction like conventional farming techniques.

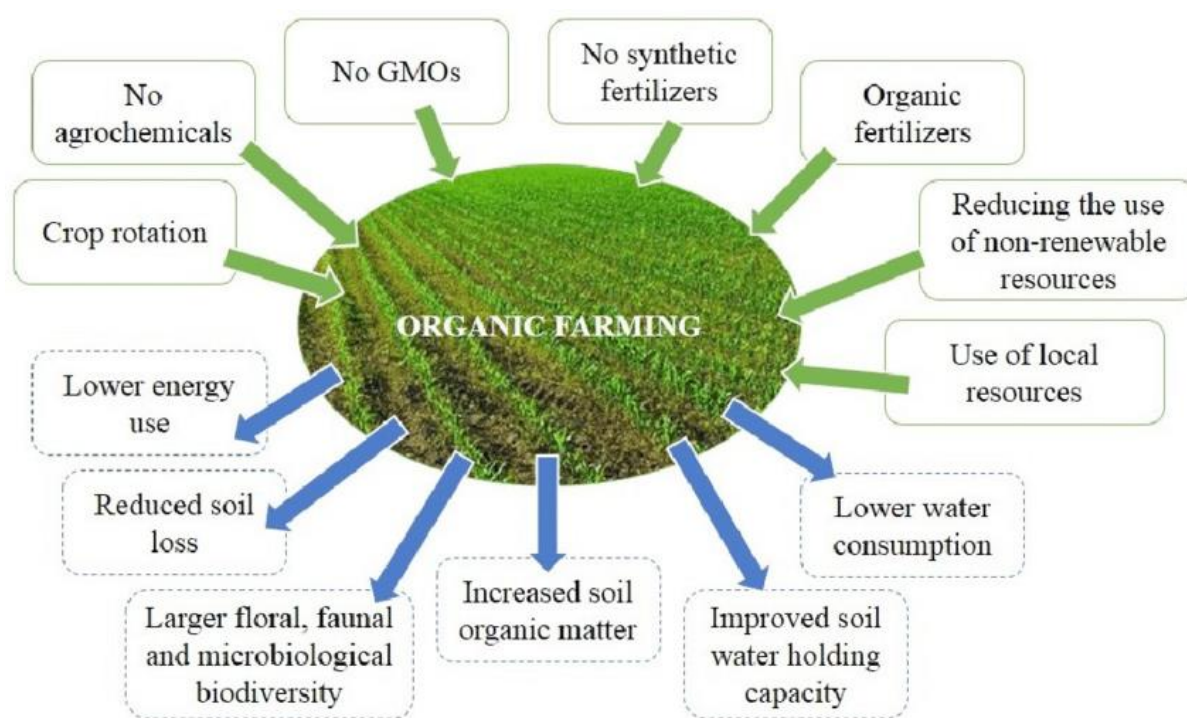
### **Objectives Of Organic Farming**

- To produce food of high nutritional quality in sufficient quantity.
- To work with natural system rather than seeking to dominate them.
- To encourage and enhance biological cycles within farming system-involving microorganisms, soil flora and fauna, plants and animals.
- To maintain and increase long term fertility of soil.
- To use, as far as possible, the renewable resources. To work as much as possible, within a closed system, with regard to organic matter and nutrient elements.
- To give all livestock, conditions of life that allow them to perform all aspects of their innate behaviour.
- To avoid all forms of pollution that may result from agricultural techniques.
- To maintain the genetic diversity of agricultural system and its surroundings, including the plants and wild life habitats.
- To allow agricultural producers an adequate returns and satisfaction from their work including safe drinking water.

### **Benefits of Organic farming**

- Disease and Pest Resistance
- Weed Competitiveness

- Lower Input Costs
- Drought Resistance
- Added Value



## Types Of Organic Farming

### 1. Pure organic farming

- It involves the use of organic manures and bio-pesticides with complete avoidance of inorganic chemicals and pesticides.

### 2. Integrated organic farming

- It involves integrated nutrients management and integrated pest management.
- It is the type of farming in which development of crops from natural resources having the complete nutritive value and manages to prevent the crop or plants from the pests.

### 3. Integration of different farming systems

- Integration of different farming systems involves several other components of farming such as poultry, mushroom production, goat rearing, and fishpond simultaneously with regular crop components.

## Techniques of organic farming:

[www.justagriculture.in](http://www.justagriculture.in)

1. **Crop Rotation:** It is the technique to grow various kind of crops in the same area, according to the different seasons, in a sequential manner.
2. **Green Manure:** It refers to the dying plants that are uprooted and turned into the soil to make them act as a nutrient for the soil to increase its quality.
3. **Biological Pest Control:** With this method, we use living organisms to control pests with or without the use of chemicals.
4. **Compost:** Highly rich in nutrients, it is a recycled organic matter used as a fertilizer in the agricultural farms.
5. **Management of Soil:**
  - Soil management is the soul of organic farming. It's a well-known fact that after taking one crop, the soil of the farm loses most of its nutrients and its fertility goes down.
  - To process of recharging the soil with all the necessary nutrients is called soil management. In organic farming the nutrients are recharged in the soil through natural ways to increase the soil fertility.
  - For this purpose, animal waste is increasingly used to recharge the soil with the necessary nutrients. The bacteria present in animal waste make soil fertile once again.
6. **Management of Weeds:**
  - Organic farming focuses on removing the weeds from the soil during the crop production. Weeds are unwanted plants that grow in the agriculture fields simultaneously with the crops and they suck most of the nutrients present in the soil. As a result the production of the crops gets affected. To get rid of weeds the farmers follow the below mentioned techniques
  - **Mulching and Cutting or Mowing:** Mulching is a process in which the farmers use plant residue or plastic films on the surface of the soil which blocks the growth of the weed while cutting or mowing helps in removal of the growth of the weeds in the farms.

**Limitations of organic farming:**

- Organic manure is not abundantly available and on plant nutrient basis it may be more expensive than chemical fertilizers if organic inputs are purchased.
- Production in organic farming declines especially during first few years, so the farmer should be given premium prices for organic produce.
- The guidelines for organic production, processing, transportation and certification etc are beyond the understanding of ordinary Indian farmer.

- Marketing of organic produce is also not properly streamlined.

#### **Organic Farming in India:**

- According to World Organic Agri Report 2018, India is the home, to 30 per cent of the total organic producers in the world, but accounts for just 2.59 per cent (1.5 million hectares) of the total organic cultivation area of 57.8 million hectares.
- At the same time, most organic farmers are struggling due to poor policy measures, rising input costs and limited market, says a study by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and global consultancy firm Ernst & Young.

#### **Why India needs Organic Farming?**

- The main reason farmers state to farm organically is their concern about working with agricultural chemicals in conventional farming systems.
- As many farm chemicals require energy intensive manufacturing processes that rely heavily on fossil fuels, there is an issue with the amount of energy used in agriculture. Organic farmers find their method of farming to be profitable and personally rewarding.

#### **Summary**

Organic farming yields numerous nutritious and secure foods. The prevalence of organic food is growing as consumers inquire about more potent and secure organic foods. Thus, organic food perhaps ensures food safety from farm to plate. The organic farming method is numerous eco-friendlies than traditional farming. Moreover, organic farming preserves soil healthy and manages environmental integrity thereby, improving the health of purchasers. Moreover, the organic produce market is now the fastest-growing business all over the globe, including India. India, at present, is the world's most extensive organic producer. With this conception, we can conclude that stimulating organic farming in India can strengthen a nutritionally, ecologically, and economically healthy population shortly.