

Zero Budget Natural Farming in India, is it really Effective

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Abstract

Zero Budget Natural Farming now the somehow the popular topic in India after PM Modi addressed these points on Nov 19th, solet's enlighten some thoughts about this topic that, why we are discussing about Zero Budget Natural Farming. What is the exact meaning of zero Budget Natural Farming, what are the integrity and details in farming and main thing that Is Zero Budget Natural Farming is really effective?

Introduction

Natural farming is the method of farming in which the minimum man intervention can be used and also the method of chemical free agriculture drawing from traditional Indian Practice. Zero Budget Natural Farming is originally promoted by Maharashtrian agriculturist Subhash Palekar He also got Padmashree, who developed it in the mid-1990s as an alternative to the Green Revolution's method driven by chemical fertilizers and pesticides and intensive irrigation. There are 4 pillars of zero budget natural farming. Jeevaamrutha, Bijamrita, Acchadana, Whapsa. Jeevaamrutha is a mixture of fresh desi cow dunk and aged desi cow urine, jaggery, pulse flour, water and soil to be applied on farmland. This is a fermented microbial culture that adds nutrients to the soil, and act as a catalytic agent to promote the activity of microorganisms and earthworm in the soil. About 200litres of Jeevamrutha should be sprayed twice a month per acre land. After three years, the system is supposed to become self- sustaining. Only one cow (Desi) is needed for 30 acres of land, according to Mr. Palekar. Bijamrita is used to treat seeds. A concoction using neem leaves and pulp, tobacco and green chillies is used to treat seeds and also used for insect and pest management. Acchandana is basically the activity of mulching. It protects topsoil during cultivation. Wapasa is a condition where there are both air molecule and water molecules present in the soil. Condition of wapasa help in reducing irrigation requirement.

Regarding these four pillars this zero-budget natural farming evolves also PM Narendra Modi also address that the natural farming and also told that the committee will work toward



that. it not that the government is promoting like that because Subhash Palekar has been promoting this since 1990 and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman in her 2019 budget speech already put zero budget farming into the spot light, she called for a “back to the basics” approach. Earlier, economic survey also highlighted the ecological advantage. Before that in 2018, Andhra Pradesh rolled out an ambitious plan to become India’s first state to practise 100% natural farming by 2024. In fact, different state like Himanchal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerela, Karnataka and Uttarakhand had invited Mr. Palekar to train their farmer in zero budget natural farming.

Discussion

The main question is the zero farming is effective? Zero Budget Natural Farming eliminate cost of external input especially fertilizers and pesticides. It can help in breaking the depth cycle for many small farmers. Natural Farming help in promoting environmentally friendly farming method. This method promotes soil aeration, minimal watering, intercropping and top soil mulching. Against the conventional method, zero budget natural farming uses only 10 percent of water and it is said that zero budget farming is suitable all crops in all agro-climatic zones.

Conclusion

Zero Budget Natural Farming havevarious economic benefits and cost benefits cost benefits but again question arise that, is a Provel technique, is it really effective, have any study been done on it. A limited 2017 study that in Andhra Pradesh claimed a sharp decline in input costs and improvement in yields. However, many reports also suggest that many farmers have reverted to conventional farming after seeing their zero-budget natural farming return drop.

In 2021 researchers at Bangalore think tank centre for study of science technology policy conducted an exploratory study in Andhra Pradesh to compare Zero budget natural farming and non-Zero budget natural farming techniques in paddy, groundnut, chilli, cotton and maize farming, the result was encouraging.

It may also have some adverse results. We recently saw that Sree Lanka ban all the chemical fertilizers and pesticides for making the country natural agriculture but result say the big crisis of food and also in Sikkim there was also promoting the organic farming but result is heavy loss in yield. That’s why Agri expert want that multi-location studies are needed to scientifically validate the long-term impact and viability of Zero budget natural farming model



before it can be scaled up and promoted country-wide. Indian Council of Agriculture Research is already studying the Zero budget Natural farming methods on various crops in different regions its data will help the committee to give a direction to Zero budget natural farming. We suddenly or drastically not change to natural farming or organic farming but with the help of this data we will know that in which range promotion need to natural farming or what range we need to spread this Zero Budget natural farming.

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