

Are Farmers in Sikkim Reaping the Benefits with Organic Farming?

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Abstract

India is known as one of the largest producers in Agriculture sector. In India all types of farming practices are doing and India also exports major produces like cotton, wheat, rice, spices, etc. Organic Farming is in high stage in India and India has secured 1st rank in the number of Organic Farmers and 9th position in terms of Organic Farming. Now India is transforming towards Organic Culture due to many reasons like soil health, soil erosion by chemicals, etc. and Government is also trying to do it by implementing some policies like National Mission For Sustainable Agriculture, etc. Sikkim is the 1st state in India which adopts the Organic Farming and gets the fully Organic state Certificate. But what about those problems (less productivity, insects, market for their produce) that are facing by the Organic Farmers in Sikkim which is affecting their lifestyle (financial). Here in this article it is mentioned what are the major problems in Sikkim and how farmers are affecting and Government has to intervene in it for the benefits of farmers by framing some policies for them.

About Organic Farming in Sikkim

Sikkim is the first state which implements the organic farming on the ground level and its farmland is 100% certified Organic. 80% of the population of Sikkim depends upon the agriculture and Allied activities. It has become the major exporter for Organic produces like fruits, spices, vegetables, etc. in recent years. From 2003 government is also trying make Organic Farming in Sikkim successful, but according to farmers, are all these practices good for him. No one thinks about this. Everyone is talking about adopt Organic culture and government also has made slogan for Organic Farming. No one is thinking what is behind the Organic Farming, what is the condition of farmers in Sikkim after applying Organic Practices. Most of the articles and reports are just favorable to Organic Farming and its

benefits to the environment, but its impact on the lifestyle of farmers, that is also a very big concern because this time “Doubling the Farmers Income” program is also going on all over the country. If farmers are getting loss due to the very limited products of Agriculture due to Organic culture, then how farmers can double their income.

Discussion

When somebody talks about Organic Farming, only one name comes in mind i.e., Sikkim. Now this is the time to study deep about the Sikkim, their farmers and their production. Farmers are not satisfied with Organic farming as they suffer from so many problems that result them a loss. For this report, some responds were recorded by 7-8 farmers in Sikkim and their responds were totally opposite to Organic Farming. As the whole state is legally organic state, farmers can't use inorganic fertilizers. For the inspection, an inspector from State Agriculture department often comes to visit the farms. According to farmers Organic farming is good in terms of healthy and nutritious food, but what about the other issues, no one is thinking about it. Only Government is talking about Organic farming, adopt Organic culture and their practices about the being the successful Organic State. Researchers are not trying to identifying the problem that are facing by Sikkim Farmers due to Organic Farming like:

1. Productivity is low with compared to inorganic farming.
2. Produce quality (appearance) is not good as inorganic farming.
3. Manpower has increased in Organic Culture and unavailability of manpower.
4. Life of organic product is less with compared to Inorganic products.
5. Organic pesticides can't control all types of harmful insects due to which they had to suffer loss.
6. Farmers are not getting fare and reasonable prices for their produce.
7. Organic products are very few in market and these are not that effective.

Although it's interesting to learn that Sikkim is an organic state, and the reality is that the farmer's circumstances are deteriorating. Farmers are unable to increase their production, their financial position is getting low day by day.

Conclusion

70% of the population of India and 19.9% GDP depend upon the agriculture. And suddenly if we are transforming into another culture, we should be aware about the future



consequences. For example, Sri Lanka, its economy has totally crashed, in fact they do not have papers to write. Transformation is good but sudden transformation is not good. Because only farmers are not affecting through it but the Agri Input Sectors are also affecting through it. Author is not stating that Organic farming but suddenly transformation is not good. Infect Government can restrict the use of very harmful chemicals or can try to minimize the use of chemical products. Government should try to help Sikkim farmers and should focus on the markets so that farmers can get reasonable prices for their produces. Framework of such types of policies should be done by Government so that some private players because private players can create various opportunities like competitive market in which farmers can get reasonable prices of their product also come to this market at ground level and policies that can improve the marketing system in Sikkim.

