

Organic Theatre: Redefining Agriculture as “AGRI-CULTURE”

Sowparnika S. B

College of Co-Operation, Banking and Management, Kerala Agricultural University

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Introduction

Organic farming is a modern and sustainable form of agriculture that provides consumers fresh natural farm products. Organic farming works in synchronization with nature rather than against it. Organic theatre is a concept that aims to revive the natural bond between agriculture and art. It aims to show the new generation the natural bond that exists between the fertility of the soil and fecund imagination that goes with the tilling of land. It is a combination of both organic produce and theatrical performances which coexisted even from the medieval times. The focus is on traditional farmers and organic farming and organic theatre is a stepping stone. The theatre will carry messages and impart information on agrarian culture. Organic theatre agriculture is redefined as “AGRI-CULTURE”. This initiative aims to educate people on the dangerous side effects of pesticides and the need to promote organic farming and to create a new work culture and food culture which is closely linked with Mother Nature and the climate.

Organic theatre is a heart warming idea where farming and folk theatre flourished alongside each other. The concept not only takes agriculture as a science but also an art bringing in the true spirit of the word agri-culture. It speaks about the importance of linking agriculture with tradition and culture. Organic theatre revolves around the idea of organic farming where farmers adopt eco-friendly practices for cultivation alongside with folk theatre. The farmers work in their fields during the day time and in the night they practice music, dance and drama in the stages constructed near the field. The final performance of the art is made on the day of harvest, usually 3-4 months after the sowing.

Organic Theatre and Rural Development

1. Women Empowerment

The concept of organic theatre has helped in empowering women and thereby helps in rural development. Most of the workers in farms were women and it helped them in earning a good source of living. Participation in cultural performances will also help them in developing their talents and social interactions. With the coming of women into main stream it would help in empowering them.

2. Employment Opportunities

Organic theatre provides employment opportunity to all spheres of life. In this initiative, not only farmers but students, IT professionals, teachers, doctors and people from different walks of life join hands right from sowing the seed till the final stage.

3. Better Crop And Pest Control

Better weed and pest control is obtained through adopting techniques like crop rotation, biological diversity, natural predators, and organic manures, suitable chemical, thermal and biological intervention. The farmers usually use endangered seeds for cultivation which would help in protecting various endogenous germ-plasms.

4. Higher Market Prices

Since the concept of organic theatre uses complete organic method of cultivation, the crops produced through this method would fetch higher prices. This would further help in increasing the farmer's income, improve their standard of living and thereby help in rural development.

5. Social And Political Aspect

Food is an emotional topic. Food often has a strong cultural, religious or even political meaning attached to it. Organic food is no different in that respect. Organic theatre is a concept which is in close relationship with the society. The various performances of dance, music and drama also take up relevant social and political issues.

A time where more and more conventional farmers are opting out of farming, But the mouths to feed are increasing exponentially day by day, it is crucial that more and more individuals and government bodies should take up farming to maintain the balance. Similarly,

art and theatre should not be confined to auditoriums alone; instead they should go to the fields where they can make the change. Agriculture depicts the relation which humans have with art and soil. We should adopt this culture of cultivation to promote organic farming. The message of this concept is to recall our nature, culture and the equilibrium.

