



## LIKELIHOOD OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE – A REVIEW

**Preface:** Organic farming creates the best possible relationship between earth & men. This paper locates Indian experience in organic farming<sup>1</sup>. The farmers of India & China are known as the farmers of organic farming since history. It is definitely true that India had witnessed a tremendous growth in agricultural production in the era of green revolution. The technologies involved during the inception of green revolution supported by policies and further propelled by agrochemicals, machinery and irrigation were the main driving forces for the enhanced agricultural production and productivity<sup>5</sup>. Local demand for organic food is growing. India is poised for faster growth with growing domestic market. Organic agriculture is a system that relies on ecosystem management rather than external agricultural inputs and is found to be more superior than conventional farming<sup>7</sup>. A major challenge today is certainly the transformation of organic products into commodities. Consumers have become more health conscious and they have started to spend more on greener, healthier and natural food stuff<sup>3</sup>.



After almost a century of development, organic agriculture is now being embraced by the mainstream & shows great promise commercially, socially & environmentally. The organic management area in India has increased by about 26-fold in last seven years<sup>1</sup>.

### **Annotations :**

**USDA** – Organic farming is a system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetic inputs and to maximize the extent feasible rely upon crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, off-farm organic waste, mineral grade rock additives and biological system of nutrient mobilization and plant protection.

**FAO** – Organic agriculture is a unique production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including bio-diversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity, and that is accomplished by using on –farm agronomic, biological and mechanical methods in exclusion of all synthetic off – farm inputs.

**IFOAM** – All agricultural systems that promotes environmentally, socially and economically sound production of food and fibre.

***The Central Dogma of Organic Agriculture<sup>2</sup>:***

- ***The Principle of Health***- Organic agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal and human as one and indivisible.
- ***The Principle of Ecology***- Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.
- ***The Principle of Fairness***- Organic agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.
- ***The Principle of Care***- Organic agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Interests in the switchover from conventional to organic farming techniques that are relevant in this regard are : high premium, low investment, less dependence on money lenders, synergy with life forms and having a traditional knowledge that the farmers have<sup>5</sup>. This does not pollute the soil or result in the wastage of water, as a result, the farmer's income increases to great extent<sup>6</sup>.



In rural India, the use of naturally occurring matter for increased productivity, disease resistance and pest control was always in use, since time immemorial. The concept of organic farming has been given a special relevance in **Rigveda**.

***Future prospects:*** Organic farming has emerged as an alternative system of farming which not only addresses the quality and sustainability concerns, but also ensures a debt free, profitable livelihood option<sup>1</sup>. The practice of organic farming should be for low volume high-value crops like tea, coffee, spices, medicinal and herbal plants<sup>4</sup>.

***Conclusion:***

An environmentally sustainable system of agriculture like organic farming will be able to maintain a stable resource balance, avoid over exploitation of renewable resource, conserving inherent soil nutritional quality, soil health, and biodiversity. It will lead us to sustainable agriculture and create a sustainable lifestyle for generations to come<sup>2</sup>. As the awareness about the harmful effect of chemicals

on health, soil and environment is increasing, the inorganic farming is shifting its way towards organic farming<sup>3</sup>. Organically produced food commodities contain more vitamins, minerals, enzymes, trace elements in addition to **antioxidants which fights cancer** as compared to conventionally grown food crops<sup>6</sup>.

#### Bibliography:

1. Makadia J.J. etal; "Prospects, status and marketing of organic products in India – A Review" *Journal of Agricultural research communication centre*;36(1) 2015: pg: 73-76
2. Sowmya K.S. "Organic Farming – Scope in India" *Global journal of advanced research*; 1(2); pg: 101-102
3. Yadav S. etal; "Prospects of organic farming in India" *Pezzottaite journals*; 4(3) Jul-Sep 2015; pp 1762-1765
4. Meena R.K. etal; "Importance, prospects and constraints of organic farming in India" *Popular kheti*, 1(4);Oct-Dec 2013; pg: 26-31
5. Roychowdhry R, "Status, trends and prospects of organic farming in india: A review" *Journal of plant biology research*; 2(2); 2013;; pg: 38-48
6. A. Zaman and Sagar Maitra "Organic agriculture: Prospects, Problems and Constraints"