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ORGANIC FARMING AND VARIETIES OF ORGANIC FOOD: AN OVERVIEW OF MADHYA PRADESH

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Abstract: At present all over the world, there is an ongoing process of going back from conventional practices i.e. towards practices of Organic Farming that help to improve environment and also reduces health risk. Though, concern with reference to protection of food and less agriculture productivity in the post independence era that led to the “Green Revolution” in the 1960’s. The Organic food industry in India is export oriented, with rapid Production growth. Awareness and knowledge has become a crucial factor in changing the attitude and behavior of consumers towards Organic foods. While the standards differ worldwide, Organic farming in general features cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and also conserve biodiversity. Major crops which are cultivated on the farmland beneath low external input regimes such as soybean, wheat, grains, pulses, cotton, vegetables and fruits and other fiber crops having economic importance.

Index Terms – Ecological balance, Green Revolution, Organic, Economic.

I. INTRODUCTION

At present all over the world, there is an ongoing process of going back from conventional practices i.e. towards practices of Organic Farming that help to improve environment and which also reduces health risk. Though, concern with reference to protection of food and less agriculture productivity in the post independence era that led to the “Green Revolution” in the 1960’s.

The Organic food industry in India is export oriented, with rapid Production growth. Awareness and knowledge has become a crucial factor in changing the attitude and behavior of consumers towards Organic foods. While the standards differ worldwide, Organic farming in general features cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. Major crops cultivated on the farmland under low external input regimes like soybean, wheat, grains, pulses, cotton, vegetables and fruits and other fiber crops having economic importance. The drawback of green revolution was the intense usage of chemical inputs that proceed to degradation or deterioration of quality of soil (Arpita mukherji, Souvik Dutta ICRIER 2017; Hema and Ilavarsan 2016). Increasing use of chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers has led to increase various diseases. India has tremendous potential to yield all types of organic food products because of its agro-climatic zones.

In the recent years, **Madhya Pradesh** has put new records with outstanding performance in agriculture sector all over the country. It is second largest state in country in terms of area after the Rajasthan with total geographical area of 308 lacs hectares and total population of 72 million approx (Economic survey 2014). Agriculture is the key sector of Madhya Pradesh economy; which determines the growth. About 73 percent population of the state is rural, which directly or indirectly depends on the agriculture.

Organic farming is not new concept is being followed from ancient times. For Organic farming, Madhya Pradesh climatic conditions, soil and is endowed with diverse crop patterns. So its land divided into 11 agricultural climatic zones. The total organic pulse and oil seed Production in Madhya Pradesh is the first in the country to contribute 24% -25%. In the state various crops, fruits, vegetables and medicinal crops are growing which gradually expanding area of Organic farming.

Organic Food like fruits, vegetables and herbal plants also contribute a lot due to large forest cover in the state. The potential of the agribusiness opportunities for Madhya Pradesh is enormous. The state

occupies prime position in terms of having more than 1.48 lakes hectare area under certified Organic out of total certified area of 3.40 lakes ha in the country.

In Madhya Pradesh Organic farming practices are being implemented under the guidance and supervision of a team of experts comprising scientists, environmentalists, and food management personals in selected villages from different blocks of different districts in the state. In these villages farmers are growing Soybean, Cotton, Maize, Arhar, Jowar, Paddy (kharif) and Wheat, Gram, vegetable and Rabi. Use of agro-chemicals in these selected villages for growing crops is strictly prohibited. Nutrients to the crops are provided through green manuring, composts, phospho composts, fermented preparations prepared from cow dung and urine etc.

Meaning of Organic food:

Organic food is food produced by *Organic farming*. Simply stated, Organic Products are those which are grown without the use of any kind of pesticides, synthetic or artificial fertilizers, sewage sludge, genetically modified organisms, or ionizing radiation. Animals that produce meat; poultry; eggs; and dairy Products do not take antibiotics or growth hormones.

The term “Organic agriculture”/“Organic farming” is used to describe different methods of farming that work in balance with nature and avoid the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. There are certain principles or standards for Organic farming that form the basis for the work of many farmers and their organizations all over the world. These farming systems are sometimes also referred to as ‘ecological’ or ‘biological’ agriculture. The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) defines Organic food as follows:

“Organic food is produced by farmers who emphasize the use of renewable resources and the conservation of soil and water to enhance environmental quality for future generations. Organic meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy Products come from animals that are given no antibiotics or growth hormones. Organic food is produced without using most conventional pesticides; fertilizers made with synthetic ingredients or sewage sludge; bioengineering; or ionizing radiation. Before a product can be labeled “Organic,” a government-approved certifier inspects the farm where the food is grown to make sure the farmer is following all the rules necessary to meet USDA Organic standards”.

FAO suggested the definition of organic farming is that “Organic agriculture is a unique production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity, and this is accomplished by using on-farm agronomic, biological and mechanical methods in exclusion of all synthetic off-farm inputs”.

While the standards differ worldwide, Organic farming in general features cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. Synthetic artificial pesticides & other chemical fertilizers are not allowed, although certain Organic ally approved pesticides may be used under limited conditions. In general, Organic foods are also not processed using irradiation, industrial solvents, or synthetic food additives.

II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

- O1: To understand the basics of organic farming in Madhya Pradesh.
- O2: To identify the various varieties of organic food products.
- O3: To study the Category-wise Organic Production of Madhya Pradesh

III DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

- Study is restricted to the secondary data published on APEDA.
- The study is confined to particular time duration.

IV LITREATURE REVIEW:

Organic food industry increases remarkably in the past few years. That is against the 2-3% growth in the conventional food industry, Organic food industry has been experiencing an annual growth between 17% and 22% over the past several years. The domestic market is nascent but has huge growth potential. Presently the domestic market for Organic Products are estimated at 1,200 tones and there are around 2-3 million potential customers for Organic agricultural produce and is growing. Organic farming has been identified as a major spearhead in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) and is expected

to be one of the focus areas to boost agricultural growth in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-12) of the Indian government, K. Muthukumaran (2006).

Carl K. Winter and Sarah F. Davis (2006) have discussed the differences between Organic foods and conventional foods with respect to food safety and nutritional composition and makes clear that several qualitative differences exist. Organic fruits and vegetables rely upon far fewer pesticides than do conventional fruits and vegetables, which results in fewer pesticide residues, but may also stimulate the Production of naturally occurring toxins if Organic crops are subject to increased pest pressures from insects, weeds, or plant diseases. Because Organic fruits and vegetables do not use pesticides or synthetic fertilizers, they have more biochemical energy to synthesize beneficial secondary plant metabolites such as poly phenolic antioxidants as well as naturally occurring toxins.

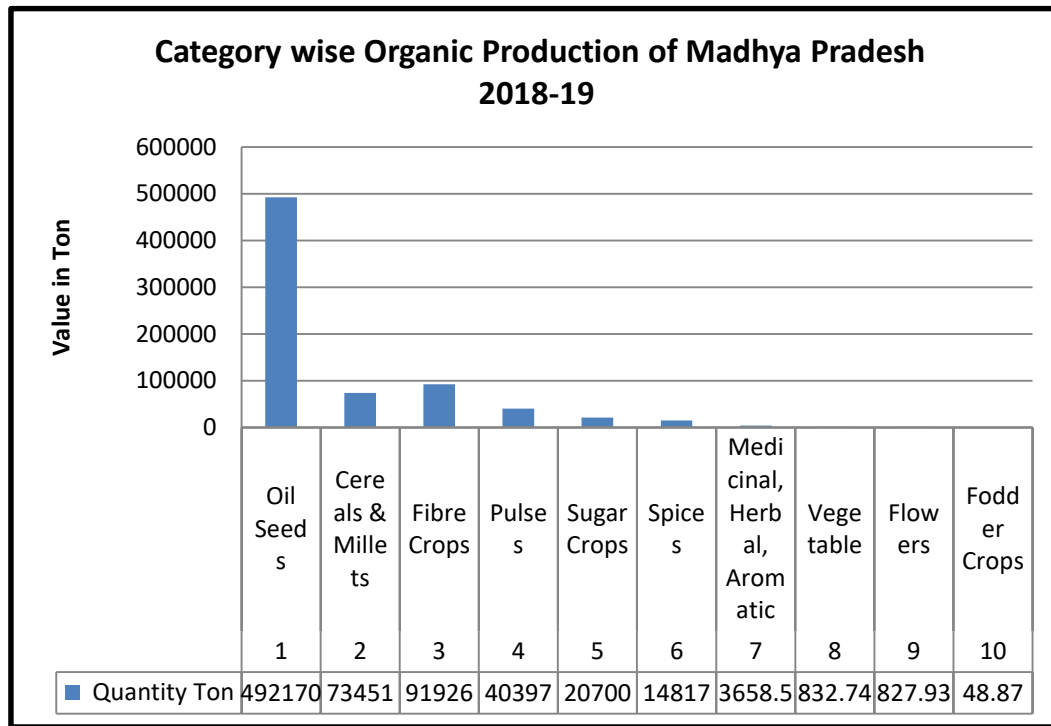
Ana Firmino (2010) has reviewed that Organic Farming offer the Indian farmers the possibility to get an added value to their Products. Those operating in the Ponda region/Goa benefit from an historical background and highly preserved biodiversity that may entitle them in the future for a GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems) project which will prevent these scenic landscapes to be destroyed. The spice plantations are a live Natural Sciences and History lesson for everybody and an attraction for the tourists who find here a pleasant environment, rich flora and fauna, rural tourism, ayurvedic medical care and an array of leisure activities in contact with Nature. In this study the advantages offered by Organic farming associated with multi functionality in the farm are tackled as well as the threats constituted by the rapid changes in the Indian society with impacts in its lifestyle.

Hrideshwer Gupta(2013), in his research paper he shows that Madhya Pradesh produces major Organic crops like Cotton, Wheat, Other Cereals, Pulses, Oil Seeds, Spices, Fruits/Vegetables, Herbal/Medicinal and Other crops. Total area under Organic cultivation is increased annually from 0.408 lakh acres in 2005-06 to 11.46 lakh acres in 2008 decreases to 10.8 lakh acres in 2009 growing sector in agriculture in Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh is producing about 7.69 MT of horticulture produce from an area of 0.75 mha. Horticulture crops like Potato, Onion, Peas, Brinjal, Guava, Papaya, Banana, Spices and Citrus. The development of agriculture and allied sectors is still a critical factor in the overall performance of the Madhya Pradesh economy. The soil in Madhya Pradesh is deficient in nitrogen and phosphate nutrients. Therefore the need of the hour is a chemical free, low cost Product/method; Organic farming and horticulture Production to increase Productivity of the land. Improve the natural degradation the farmers were educated to use balanced fertilizers, synthetic pesticides and other bio chemicals to enhance Productivity. Productivity of agricultural land in Madhya Pradesh are balanced use of Pro-biotic biotechnology Products to achieve the most favorable consumption ratio; use of hybrid and improved seed varieties and implementation of scientifically advanced micro-organism in agriculture.

V. Category-wise Organic Production of Madhya Pradesh in 2018-19

In Madhya Pradesh organic food production majorly of Oil seeds, Cereals & Millets, Fibre Crops, Pulses, Sugar crops, and Spices etc. The Oil seeds production is nearly 492170.197 ton, Cereals and Millets nearly 73450.522 ton, Fibre Crops nearly 91925.511 ton, Pulses nearly 40397.45 ton and so on. The category wise organic production of Madhya Pradesh is shown in dia.

Figure 1.10 Category-wise Organic Production of Madhya Pradesh



Source: Developed by author from APEDA 2019

VI IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

As a consequence of many alarm signals regarding environment endangering, now an individual adopting several alternatives such as Organic farming. The main aim of Organic Farming is to produce Organic food with the establishing an ecological balance to prevent soil fertility or pest problems. It takes a proactive approach as opposed to treating problems after they emerge. Thus, a natural balance needs to be maintained at all cost for existence of life and property. The obvious choice of this research would be more relevant in the present era, when these agrochemicals which are produced from fossil fuel and are not renewable and are diminishing in availability, It may also cost heavily on our future.

In this context research will explores the understanding on different aspects of Organic Products. This reaserch will enhance the awareness in consumers. It is Good for Us, Our family & Environment!

- Its healthy: that is more minerals & vitamins for healthy life.
- No GMO: that is only pure food without genetically modified organism
- No antibiotics: that is no antibiotics are used for animals
- No addtives: that is no coloring, flavouring, sweetners or preservatives used
- Irradation: that is no irradiation used to color the Product synthetically
- Highest quality: that is Organic Production is inspected at least once a year
- Good for environent: the drinking water gets not affected by chemicals
- Good for animals: that is animal welfare takes a very important part of Organic standards
- Good for climate: that is organic agriculture produce less CO₂
- Delious taste: thats is organic food is the pure taste of nature.

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