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PRESENT STATUS OF ORGANIC FARMING IN INDIA

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Abstract: India and other developing nations view agriculture as their primary source of revenue. The majority of people in India depend on agriculture, and it is vital to the creation of jobs. Farmers began applying more fertilizer to their land in order to meet the demand for food and increase output; nevertheless, this practice killed many plants and animals, contaminated water supplies, decreased soil fertility, and increased the risk of human illness. People began to choose organic farming as a result of growing concerns about the environment, human health, and soil health. Organic farming emerged as a solution to the issues with conventional farming. India currently has more organic producers than any other country, and its organic products are sold all over the world. This study set out to investigate the present situation of organic farming in India.

Index Terms - Organic farming, Conventional farming, Farmers, Organic products.

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, organic farming is gaining momentum worldwide, including in developed and developing countries. This can be observed by the significant increase in demand for organic products, and more agricultural land goes into account for organic farming (Willer et al., 2022). Globally, the organic food and drink sales market reached more than 120.6 billion euros in 2020 (Willer et al., 2022). Organic farming is an approach to farming where the aim is to create integrated, economical and sustainable system. According to the IFOAM Organic Agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems, and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity, and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation, and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved In India, organic gardening is not a novel idea. The majority of Indian farmers used traditional farming methods in the past. However, as the population grew, so did the demand for food. To meet this demand, green revaluation was implemented during the second-year plan with the formalization of 2*2 in Punjab and Haryana. As soon as this concept gained traction in India, farmers in every state began using chemical fertilizers to increase crop yields. Everything was great at first, but as farmers began to use more fertilizer, the farmed land began to lose its fertility. The chemicals in that fertilizer also began to kill worms, which helped the field become more fertile.

Following COVID-19, customers' awareness of their health began to grow, and as a result, they began to favor organic foods over conventional goods made with chemical fertilizer. As the land begins to lose its fertility, the government plans to encourage organic farming by implementing programs like the Shrianna Yojana, Paramparagat Krishi Viaks Yojana, National Programme for Organic Production, and National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) other initiatives. For the promotion of organic fertilizers, the minister has allotted ₹100 crore for FY25 as opposed to ₹6 crore for FY24 (RE). In 2023, a new plan was unveiled to support the growth of organic fertilizers by offering Market Development Assistance (MDA) and encouraging research and development as GOBARdhan efforts. Also introduced last year was the PM-PRANAM program,

which offers states a set amount of money as compensation in exchange for reducing their use of chemical fertilizers.

Review of literature

Ramesh et al(2010): This study compared the productivity, economics, and soil quality of certified organic farms in comparison to conventional farms to ascertain the real benefits of the organic farm. The primary data was collected from 50 certified organic farms and 50 comparable conventional farms. The researcher found that the productivity of crops in organic farming is lower by 9.2% compared to conventional farming, there was a reduction in the average cost of cultivation in organic farming by 11.7% compared to conventional farm.

Panday et al (2012): This study identified the opportunities and constraints of organic farming in India. The study is based on the secondary data. The researcher found that farmers' apprehension towards India is rooted in the non-availability of sufficient organic supplements, biofertilizers, and local market for organic produce and poor access to guidelines, certification, and input cost.

Reddy(2010): The study examined the Status, Issues, and Prospects of organic farming in India. The study is based on secondary data. The researcher identified that organic farming does not provide more profitability and yield increase as compared to conventional farming, but there is a strong consensus on its eco-friendly nature and inherent ability to protect human health. Further, this study identified that there is a lack of government subsidies or support to make the conversion to organic status easier or cheaper.

Roychowdhury et al (2013): This study analyzed the recent trend, status, and future prospects of organic farming in India. This study is based on secondary data collected from government websites. The study identified that organic farming is a great potential solution to the problem caused by the chemical farming method to the environment and the health of mankind and a country like India, where labor is quite abundant and relatively cheap hence production cost is less as compared to other countries.

Singh et al (2019): The study analyzed the Present Status and Future Prospects of Organic Farming in India. The researcher found that People are now ready to pay an extra amount if they are ensured that they are purchasing genuinely raised food through a natural system. Thus strengthening the certification process in the country is a must.

Objectives

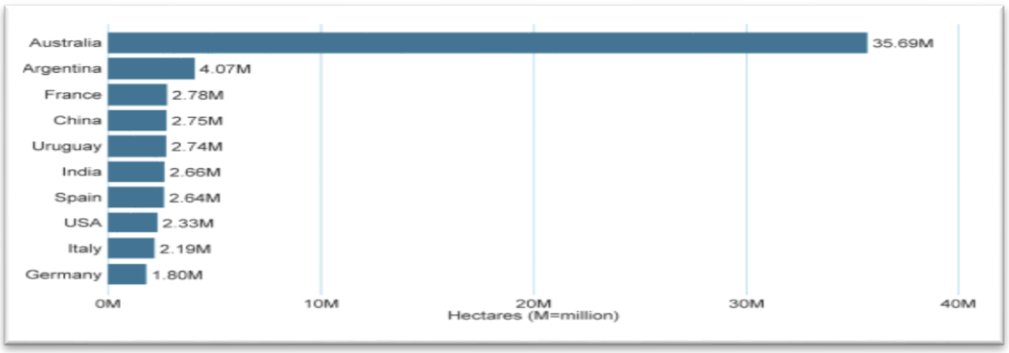
1. To study the organic farming status of India in the world scenario
2. To analyze the trends of organic farming in India.

Data collection: The research has been done by analyzing data which is collected from various government websites such as NPOP, FiBLE, and FASSAI.

Organic farming status of India in the world scenario

India is the second-most populous country in the world, with most of its citizens relying on agriculture as their main source of income. In order to maintain soil fertility and preserve ecological balance, Indian farmers are increasingly choosing organic farming over traditional agricultural practices. They also employ farm waste, animal waste, and aquatic waste as fertilizers to maintain soil health and ecological balance. When it comes to the amount of area used for organic farming India stands in sixth position.

Top countries with the highest agricultural land

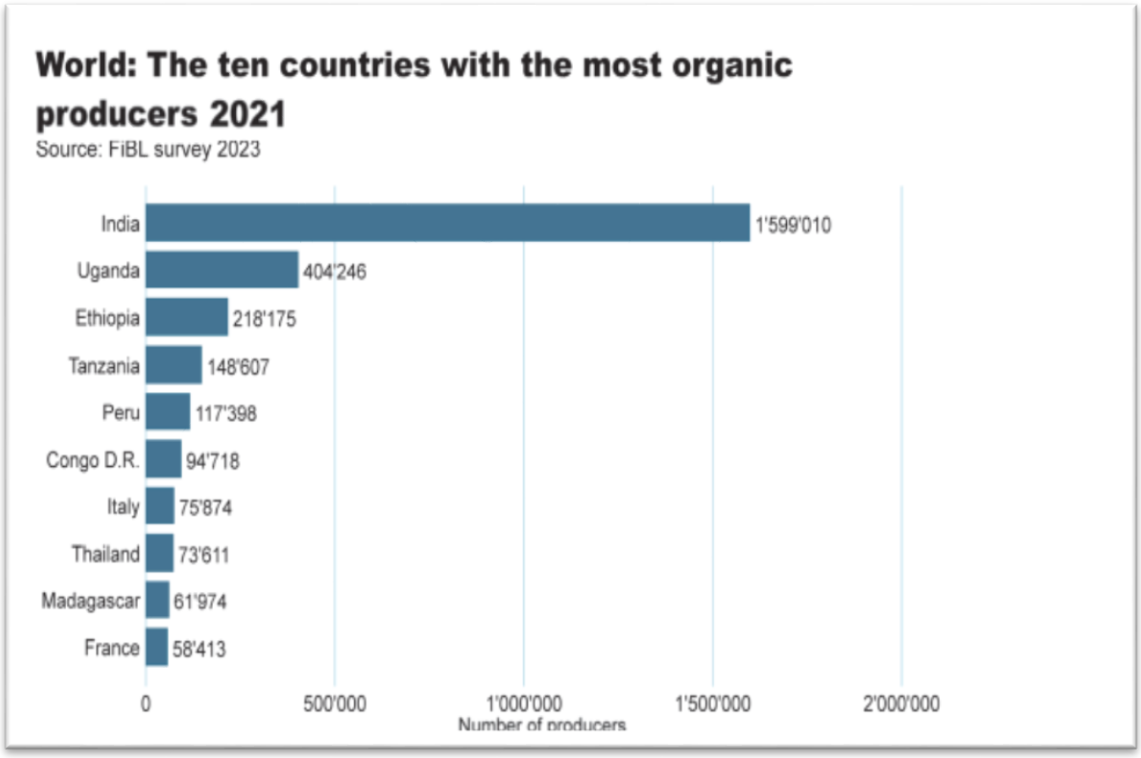


(source: FiBL survey 2023)

The highest organic share of total agricultural land, by region, was in Oceania (9.7 percent), followed by Europe with 3.6 percent and Latin America with 1.4 percent. In the European Union, the organic share of the total agricultural land was 9.6 percent. Many individual countries, however, have a much higher organic share. India stands in sixth position with 2’657’889 hectares of organic farming land.

Top countries with the most organic producers

India has the top spot in the world rankings for producers, with 15,90,10 farmers, followed by Tanzania and Ethiopia.



(Source: FiBL survey 2023)

According to the data obtained, more than 91 percent of the producers were in Asia, Africa, and Europe. The country with the most organic producers was India, followed by Uganda and Ethiopiahere has been an increase in the number of producers of more than 170’000, or 4.9 percent, compared to 2020. In Africa, Oceania, Latin America, Europe, and Northern America, the number of producers increased. Only in Asia, there was a slight decrease in 2021(FiBL year book 2023).

Organic farming in India

India's economy is based primarily on agriculture, which also provides a substantial amount of employment and GDP to the nation. More than half of the nation's workforce is employed in this industry, which has long served as the primary means of subsistence. India's unique topography, climate, and soil conditions have led to a reputation for its wide range of agricultural approaches. Crops such as rice, wheat, legumes, and cotton are among the most widely produced in the nation.

The government began to encourage organic agricultural practices by holding programs, offering training, and adopting various schemes after recognizing the impact of using chemical fertilizers on the land. Due to growing consumer awareness of health issues and a preference for organic products, organic farming has grown more in demand, leading Indian farmers to adopt organic agricultural practices.

India has 1764677.15 hectares of organic farming land, 3627115.82 hectares of organic farming land that is being converted, and 4780130.56 hectares of wild harvest area, according to the most recent statistics from NPOP India.

The top states of India with the highest organic agricultural land.

State-wise Area under Organic certification NPOP 2022-23				
.NO.	State Name	Cultivated Area		Total Area (In Ha)
		Organic Area (In Ha)	Conversion Area(In Ha)	
	Madhya Pradesh	686208.31	831168.8	15,17,377.11
2	Maharashtra	258638.55	1025675.6	12,84,314.15
3	Gujarat	84404.36	851526.64	9,35,931.00
4	Rajasthan	216440.36	364239.43	5,80,679.79
5	Odisha	77950.82	117128.66	1,95,079.48
6	Uttarakhand	32634.01	65,759.72	98,393.73
7	Telangana	7288.85	77,185.37	84,474.22
8	Karnataka	44342.45	37,673.11	82,015.56
9	Sikkim	75453.18	22.096	75,475.28
10	Uttar Pradesh	52422.44	15,584.61	68,007.05

(Source: NPOP)

With a total area of 15,17,377.11 hectares, of which 686208.21 is organic and 831168.8 is undergoing conversion, Madhya Pradesh is the leading state in terms of land used for organic agriculture. Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra are next. Sikkim State is regarded as the first in India to embrace 100% organic farming.

Export of organic food products to other countries.

India is the world leader in terms of producers(companies and grower groups), ranking sixth in terms of land dedicated to organic farming. However, there is not much of a market for organic products, thus the majority of organic items were formerly exported to the EU, USA, and Canada, where there is a huge demand for organic products.

Top countries to where India exports organic products

Country Wise Export during 2022-23				
Sl. No.	Country Name	Exported Qty (In MT)	Total Value (In Crore Rs)	Value (In USD Million)
1	European Union	117369.847	2726.304	349.5261
2	U.S.A.	126804.570	2040.561	261.6104
3	CANADA	38726.391	332.234	42.5941
4	GREAT BRITAIN	11670.826	146.393	18.7684
5	SWITZERLAND	4630.467	92.621	11.8744
6	AUSTRALIA	1045.793	45.052	5.7760
7	VIETNAM	3649.192	20.723	2.6569
8	ECUADOR	1812.240	18.896	2.4225
9	ISRAEL	1720.733	15.929	2.0421
10	JAPAN	223.434	15.866	2.0341

(Source: NPOP)

Indian organic products have a sizable market in the European Union. The EU imported 117369.847 million tons of organic goods worth a total of 2726.304 crore in 2022–2023. The United States of America is in second place with 2040.561 crore worth of organic product imports, totaling 126804.570 million tons. Switzerland, Canada, and Great Britain move up in the rankings.

Conclusion

India began using organic farming practices in the early 19th century to grow crops such as fruits, ve getables, and seeds.Due to population growth, the demand for food products decreased in the middle of the 1 9th century. To meet this demand, people started using chemical fertilizers to increase yield, but after a whil e, the land lost its fertility and began to negatively impact ecological balance.Upon realizing the detrimental effects of artificial fertilizers, farmers are returning to more traditional methods, which they refer to as organ ic farming.

Compared to other countries, Ireland is one of the biggest producers of organic goods, but when it co mes to demand, the country used to rank last due to several factors, including high prices and a lack of aware ness. As a result, there is a need to raise awareness of organic farming and organic food products, and the go vernment needs to offer incentives to organic farmers through subsidiaries and schemes in order to encourag e them to continue organic farming.

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