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## ORGANIC FARMING AT A GLANCE

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**Abstract:** This paper is about describing the basics of Organic farming such as its aim, need, status, principles, techniques, success and failures associated with it.

Organic farming is a safe, sustainable farming method aims at cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way that the soil is kept alive and in good health by use of organic wastes and other biological materials for increased sustainable production in an eco-friendly pollution free environment.

The first initiative in Organic farming was done by Rudolf Stainer and his work "Spiritual Foundations for the Renewal of Agriculture" published in 1924, and the concept is called Biodynamic agriculture. The drawbacks of Conventional farming especially after Green Revolution leads to the increasing need of Organic farming among people.

The main objective of this paper is to analyse an overall view of Organic farming with its status, techniques, principles, success and failures

**Index Terms** – Organic Farming, Eco-Friendly, Fertilizers, Environment, Certification.

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### ORGANIC FARMING

Organic farming is a safe, sustainable farming method aims at cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way that the soil is kept alive and in good health by use of organic wastes and other biological materials for increased sustainable production in an eco-friendly pollution free environment. It avoids the use of artificial chemical fertilizers and pesticides on land, relying on developing a healthy, fertile soil and growing a mixture of crops. In other words, it was actually initiated as an answer to the environmental sufferings caused by the use of chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. It is a new system of farming or agriculture that repairs, maintains and improves the ecological balance.

#### HISTORY OF ORGANIC FARMING

The first initiative in Organic farming was done by Rudolf Stainer and his work "Spiritual Foundations for the Renewal of Agriculture" published in 1924, and the concept is called Biodynamic agriculture. Sir Albert Howard studied traditional farming and considered such practices as superior to modern agricultural practices which is described in his work "An Agricultural Testament" published in 1940 emerged as the origin of modern Organic farming. Later he is known as the "Father of Organic farming".

Organic farming is not new and is being followed from ancient time. Though it is a 10,000 years old idea, it is getting well known by the most recent 50 years.

Ancient farmers started cultivation depending only on natural resources. Cultivation was absolutely organic and subsistence type. But thereafter due to population growth it shifted to intensive type ie, maximization of output. Thus Conventional farming developed and it leads to several environmental and health issues. Thereafter attempt should be made to again shifting to Organic Agriculture.

## NEED OF ORGANIC FARMING

The drawbacks of Conventional farming especially after Green Revolution leads to the increasing need of Organic farming among people. The following are the negative effects of Green Revolution

- Rapidly degrading the soil fertilizer
- Cost of production increased
- Increased environmental pollution
- Increasing health hazards

Besides the following reasons were also lead to the need for Organic farming among people

- Rapid use of chemical fertilizers reduce soil fertility and led soil, water and air pollution
- For adopting inexpensive farming
- Increased demand of Organic products for food safety
- To conserve eco-system
- To promote sustainable development

## TYPES OF ORGANIC FARMING

There exists two types of Organic farming.

- **Pure Organic Farming** : It is one of the rarer types of Organic farming. It avoids every inorganic chemicals and pesticides, and use fertilizer and pesticides obtain from natural resources.
- **Integrated Organic Farming** : It combines the best of Organic farming with nutrients management and integrated pest management. In it producers grow crops using natural resources, but to enhance its nutritional value and to protect the crops from pests, they will make use of additional inputs.

## AIMS OF ORGANIC FARMING

- Organic farming assures long term benefits to people and the environment
- Control pests and diseases without harming the environment
- Ensures that water stays clean and safe
- Maximum possible use of renewable resources
- Maintaining and increasing the long term fertility and biological activity of the soil
- Maintaining and increasing natural biodiversity and agro-bio diversity
- Use of existing resources, so the farmer needs less money to buy farm inputs
- Produce nutritious food, feed for animals and high quality crops to sell at a good price.

## TECHNIQUES OF ORGANIC FARMING

- **Crop Rotation** : In this technique, various types of crops may grow in the same area, according to different seasons, in a sequential way.
- **Green Manure** : It is the dying plants that are uprooted and turned into the soil and make them act as a nutrient for the soil to increase its quality.
- **Biological Pest Control** : Under this method, we use living organisms to control pests with or without the use of chemicals.
- **Compost** : It is a recycled organic matter , highly rich in nutrients used as a fertilizer in agricultural farms.

## PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC FARMING

- **Principle of Health** : Organic Farming contributes to the health and well – being of soil, plants, animals, humans and the earth
- **Principle of Ecological Balance** : The methods of Organic Farming must fit the ecological balance and cycles.
- **Principle of Fairness** : It provides a good quality of life and helps in reducing soil infertility.
- **Principle of Care** : Organic agriculture should practice in a careful and responsible way to help the present and future generations and the environment.

**STATUS OF ORGANIC FARMING**

- Worldwide 31 hectares of land is under Organic farming and it was managed by 700000 farmers.
- 138 Countries growing Organic food.
- India ranks 33 in the Organic farming and Madhya Pradesh has highest land under Organic farming (52%)
- Maharashtra is at Second (33.6%)
- Orissa is at Third (9.7%)
- Uttarakhand and Sikkim are Organic states.

**ADVANTAGES OF ORGANIC FARMING**

- Organic farming helps to maintain environment health by adopting eco-friendly farming and thus reducing the level of pollution
- Organic farming ensures optimum utilization of natural resources for short-term benefits and helps in conserving them for future generation
- Organic farming reduces the cost of agricultural production and also improves soil health
- Organic farming is more natural, nutritious and tasty than non-organic food
- Organic farming can reduce total green house gas emissions
- Organic farming increases the ability of soil to hold water for crop use, and also increases its long term fertility
- Organic farming contributes to better water quality
- Organic farming helps in keeping agricultural production at a higher level and makes it sustainable. In other words, Organic food can feed the world.

**DISADVANTAGES OF ORGANIC FARMING**

- The yield of Organic farming is always low and so the farmers are forced to quote a higher price for the products to overcome their cost of production.
- The weaker organic pesticides cannot resolve the pest disease issues in Organic farming. This is the reason for crop failure under Organic farming.
- Scarcity of bio-resource for compost production due to conventional farming practices, increased mechanization etc. leads to an obstacle towards large scale organic conversion.
- The inability of government to take a firm decision to promote Organic farming is an important constraint felt in the progress of Organic farming.
- Complexity and high cost of organic certification system is one of the major constraints for small land holders of Organic farming.
- There is lack of research and extension support for Organic farmers. A traditional farmer faced difficulty to adopt and learn the technology and practices of Organic farming, at the same time a new farmer will require proper guidance from a trained Organic farmer time to time.

**CONCLUSION**

Organic farming is one of the best farming methods to decrease the cost of the production and also to increase the quality of the product and the product should be free from the chemical residues and other toxic substances. Organic farming can build a nutritionally, ecologically and economically healthy nation in near future.

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