

ORGANIC FARMING IN INDIA : STATUS AND PROSPECTIVES

Suman Kharb

Ph.D Research schola , Economics

ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to bring different issues together in the context of recent developments in organic farming system in India . The negative external effects of green revolutions have encouraged the farmers and consumers to move towards organic farming . This paper has reviewed the Indian scenario with reference to organic farming .This paper reflects the need of organic farming for India , the important issues emerging in adopting organic farming , role and importance of certification of organic products and certification constraint , trend of organic production , its exports and organic products market in India , and importance of policy supports . It has been argued that organic farming is productive and sustainable , but there is need for strong support to it in the form of research , agriculture extension services and subsidies.

KEY WORDS: *Organic farming , green revolution , certification and sustainable.*

Organic farming is a production system that helps in sustains the health of soil , ecosystem and soil. It relies on biodiversity , ecological process and cycle adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of fertilizer and pesticides with adverse effects . Organic farming is a combination of science , traditions and innovations ,which is beneficial to environment and promote a good quality of life for all involved . Organic farming is a alternative agricultural system and it originated early in the 20th century with growing concerns about the harmful effect of conventional farming system . The methods of organic farming are internationally regulated and legally enforced by many nations , based in large part on the standards set by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), an international umbrella organization for all organic farming organizations established in 1972.

INeed FOR PAPER

The people of India are very aware about the harmful long run consequences of conventional farming and showing interest in alternative farming without any economic loss . Government is also promotion organic farming I n view of achieving rural development , providing employment opportunity to local resources and increasing the quantity of qualitative food . This paper reflects the growing trend of organic farming in India and also discusses the constraints and required solutions .

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II.OBJECTIVES

- (1)To understand the need of organic farming in India .
- (2)To analysis the constraints in the introduction of the organic farming on larger scale in India .

III.REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Adhikari (2009) It is reported that inorganic production system has higher cost and higher revenue but organic production system has higher benefit cost ratio .

Charyulu and Biswas(2010) compared the production cost of organic and inorganic farming and they found that unit cost of production is lower in organic farming in case of sugar and sugarcane.

Kaushik(1997)discusses the policy implications and issues in the adoption of organic farming .The trade off has a forceful role to play in organic farming both at individual and national level .current vis- a -vis future income and consumption are very important issues to be determined .

IV.METHODOLOGY

This paper is purely based on secondary data from annual reports of agriculture by ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare ,International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements , economic survey of 2017-18 , Indian census 2011 and reports from newspapers are used for preparations of the paper .

V.ORGANIC FARMING IN INDIA

Organic agriculture was practiced in India since thousands of years back . The Indian civilization thrived on organic farming and was one of the most prosperous countries in the world till we became independent under British rule . After independence we survived in a backward economy due to British exploitation , natural calamities , growing population and scarcity of food in India. In order to reduce imports of food and to fulfill the food need government adopt a new farming system with hybrid seeds and chemical fertilizers . But with the adoption of green revolution the land started losing its fertility and costly farming started to increase .With these harmful consequences both the farmers and consumers are now gradually shifting back to organic farming in India due to its health benefits and growing demand of organic products on national and international level . Indian economy is a agrarian economy . 68.84% population lives in rural areas and depends upon on agriculture to survive . agriculture sector employs 50% of the total work force in India and contribute around 17-18 % of the country ,s GDP . It reflects the importance of sustainable agriculture practices and Organic Farming therefore provide a better alternative . Both the 11th plan documents on organic sector and the reports of National Commission on Farmers have recommended organic farming as a tool for the second green revolution in India. Organic farming can become a low cost option for farming , particularly by small farmers and it will help them in increasing their income . Adequate safe and nutritional food can be produced in organic farming

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system for both consumers and producers . Some important benefits of adopting organic farming in India are following

- Organic farming tends to be cheaper and can be easily grown locally compared to traditional farming .
- The organic foods are healthier and more nutritional as compared to the traditionally grown foods .
- India is a labour abundant country and organic farming is a labour intensive farming system . Hence it is favourable for India to adopt this system for providing employment opportunities .
- Globally demand of organic foods are growing rapidly and these products fetches high prices . Thus it will help India to get more foreign exchange reserve .
- Organic farming refrain the use of fertilizer which is harmful for soil health and its productivity .Thus it helps in maintaining sustainable agriculture and it is eco friendly .

VI.GROWTH OF ORGANIC FARMING IN INDIA

India has tremendous potential for organic farming ,largely untapped .The organic area in India was 0.186 million hectare in 2005 . The wild collection area was 2.386 million hectare .Total area of both organic and wild collection in India has increased from 2.57 million hectare in 2005 to 5.69 million hectare in 2013. In 2015 -16 the total area under organic certification is 5.71 million hectare . it include 26% and 74% cultivable and wild area respectively . Around 1.35 million tonne of certified organic production which include all varieties of food products namely oil seeds ,pulses, sugarcane , dry fruits , vegetables ,spices , coffee etc and it also include organic cotton fibre , functional food etc. Among all states of India large area under organic certification is covered by Madhya Pradesh followed by Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

VII.ORGANIC FOOD EXPORT FROM INDIA

With increasing preference and demand of organic products has created new export opportunities and countries have started getting benefits of exports markets for organic products. Indian organic farming industry is mainly export oriented . It running as contracting firms . Majority of farmers in India are opting this practice because of its attractive market and price margins. Export of organic foods has risen by almost 25 percent between 2015 – 16 to 2016-17 from rupees 19.76 billion to Rs 24.78 billion . This time overall farm exports grew by less than 1 percent from Rs 1,074,31 billion to just Rs 1,084,26 billion . Though organic farming export is very small portion of India overall agricultural basket (less than three percent). But it showing continuous increasing trend from the last few years .In fact ,organic food exports have grown from Rs 5 billion a year to almost Rs 25 billion in the past decade .Half of these exports are soybean seeds and row cotton and the remaining exports are constitutes tea, spices, pulses , millets and cereals. Major destination for India organic food exports are US,EU and Canada .Organically made products , both food and non food export , is likely to grow threefold in two years to 2020 after the government relaxation on quota limits .It believe that overall market of Rs 4000 crore under the organic value chain would reach Rs 10000 crore to 12000 crore by 2020 and similar increase in exports . While exports of non basmati rice ,organic wheat ,sugar and edible oil have been exempted from all

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annual ceiling and those on lentils and pulses has been increased from 10000 tonne to 50000 tonnes . All organic products exports are certified by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

VIII.ORGANIC PRODUCT MARKET IN INDIA

India organic food market is growing rapidly .According to a YES bank reports in 2012 , it was estimated at Rs 1000 crore of which Rs 700 crore came from exports and it is growing at 30 to 40 percent annually . India is largest organic cotton grower in the world and it account for 50 per cent share of total world organic cotton production . Government has implemented various schemes and programmes such as National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Prampragat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna to extend opportunity for growing markets of organic products . Now there are various opportunity to invest in organic market because demand for organic products are growing day by day due to increasing incidents of food adulteration and growing consumers consciousness of natural , healthy and safe foods . Consumers are ready to pay more for organic products as their disposable income increases . Another key factor behind the this is growth in e- commerce which provides a platform to organic companies for selling their products . There are more than 25 e- commerce platforms selling organic food online in India now. There are various generalists grocery sites and organic retailers like JoyByNature and OrganicShop etc. Government has launched PGS-India , a quality assurance initiative that is locally relevant, emphasis the participation of stakeholders and operate outside the frame of third party organic certification .

IX.CONSTRAINTS FOR ORGANIC FARMING IN INDIA

No doubt ,the advantage of organic farming outweigh its disadvantages but in practical it has several constraints Farmers have no clear idea about the advantage of organic farming against the conventional farming due to ambiguous directions and policies of government and lack of awareness about the proper use of bio fertilizer and bio pesticides . The output marketing problem such as inability to obtain a premium price and insurance amount in case of crop failure ,poor backward and forward linkage , problem in export of organic products due to tariff and non tariff barriers . Lack of proper market system for organic products discourage farmers to adopt organic farming system .

Inadequate supporting infrastructure exists in India Although NPOP has been adopted since 2000 , but the states governments are not succeed in formulate policies and desirable mechanism to operationalize them . So far there are only four agencies for accreditation and the exports are also restricted to few commodities such as fruits , coffee, vegetables and spices .Organic certification process is very complex . It consumes lot of time and many procedures in testing and certified the products due to defficiency of proper lab and outdated technology for testing the products.

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There is shortage of bio mass and the cost of organic inputs are higher than those of industries produced chemical fertilizers and pesticides including other inputs used in the conventional farming . Bio fertilizer and bio pesticides are yet to become popular . Retailers are not interested to deal with organic inputs as their demand is low . The low level of awareness and erratic demand also increase to this problem . Due to increase NPA, banks don't have faith in farmers community .

Farmers experience low return and less economic viability in conversion of their farming method. Short term return are low in organic farming . Those farmers ,who depends on agricultural yield for their living are not satisfied with these short terms low returns . Domination of green revolution , more yields in the short periods attract farmers to conventional farming .

X.REQUIRED POLICIES AND PROGRAMME FOR PROMOTING ORGANIC FARMING

A system approach that draws from agro ecological thinking must be promoted with the focus on encouraging the utilization and management of on farm and local resources .

NPOP should recognize the requirements and criticality of transitional phase for organic farmers when they converts from conventional (low input system) to organic farming system . There is need to increase investments or capacity , awaited premium price and insurance security .

Access to financial institutions , financial subsidy for inputs ,certification and availability of credit facilities must be provided in the transitional period for compensating the farmers for yields loss . Appropriate financial mechanism must be established .

The policy on organic agriculture must not be implemented in isolation . Organic farming must be incorporated in the large programme on agriculture at the state and national level , would be beneficial for promoting sustainable rural development .

Incentives should be provided to farms through agriculture schemes and these incentives should be tailored towards encouraging and supporting industrialized farming process so that they can opt organic farming at a larger scale . There are few schemes as RKVY , NHM and HMNEHS for the promotion of organic farming . Now there is need for cooperation and harmonization between such schemes to get increased benefits of organic farming .

Natioal Centre for Organic Farming (NCOF) , is the nodal agency but it should mainly give priority commercial organic inputs production over other support mechanism for farmers , which are important for the full development of sector .It should also focus on promotion of appropriate input management strategies , capacity building of stake holders , development of market linkages , farmers training , strengthen panchayat system , awareness rising . Effective coordination between NCOF and departments or ministries is the key for the viability and expansion of organic agriculture . Liaising and connection with international agencies and

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national organization such as (Millet Network of India , Revitalizing Rain fed Agriculture Network and Organic Farming Association of India) would also helpful in promoting organic agriculture in the country .There should be a proper link between NCOF and state / districts / block level extension agencies and with other stakeholders (civil , society and industry) through its regional offices . Establishment of regional centres for organic farming RCOF can helpful in the success of national organic programme .

Research on organic farming needs to be mainstreamed within Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) Institution and State Agriculture Universities . It is important to exchange knowledge between farmers and grass root institutions , workers and researchers to coverage all disciplines for organic farming such as agronomy , entomology ,soil science , animal husbandry , ecology and social science . The International Council of Agriculture Research must also establish a research centre on organic agriculture that coordinate research across the various state and non state organization .

Certification system should be transparent , low costs and simple . Every farmer should be easily approach to these certification agencies . The process of group certification should be promote to provide benefits to those farmers who live in rainfed area . Participatory Guarantee Scheme should be promoted as an alternative of third party system . Market for organic products should be established and easy access of farmers to these market , appropriate premium price are necessary for the promotion of organic farming in India .

XI.CONCLUSION

Negative environmental externalities of commercial conventional farming is creating fears for the entire globe and seems to be inappropriate to fulfill future demand of food . It is required to adopt such farming system that would be sustainable and less energy inputs intensive . But there is doubt about organic farming whether it is able to fulfill the food demand of the world . Now it is cleared that no one production system will alone produce required food for the growing population . To address hunger , malnutrition and under nourishment , structural reforms in food system is essential . Shifting away from conventional farming practices in the face of meeting food security , may also invite change in other areas such as dietary habits for example reducing food waste , lowering meat consumption , developing alternate food stocks for bio fuels . These change could help improving food availability . Organic farming based on local inputs provide a comparative advantage to small and marginal farmers operating in low input system in countries like India because it is based on agro ecological principles . Organic farming would be more beneficial in rain fed area and north eastern region . Thus organic farming can provide a range of benefits including improving yields , enhancing food security , restoring soil fertility and improving livelihood as well as social and human capital among others.

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