



RELEVANCE OF ORGANIC FARMING IN INDIA

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Abstract

The present article focuses the attention of the stakeholders of organic farming in India on the development, problems and prospects of organic farming. Organic movement and concepts were influenced by Indian philosophies associated with nature, ecology, and Gandhian ideologies which initiated by non- government organizations. Scholars and activists have advocated that organic farming should be promoted in India since it is a divine practice for the spiritual advancement and welfare in harmony with nature, family and society. The social activists and development practitioners had conducted workshops, conferences and seminars across the country and brought civil society leaders, activists, organic practitioners and progressive farmers under a single platform for promoting and developing Indian organic movement. Series of intellectual deliberations and social activities were organized in the country to bring about awareness among the various stakeholders of sustainable development on the preservation, protection and conservation of traditional agricultural farm practices in the country. The country is poised for faster growth with growing domestic market. Success of organic movement in India depends upon the political will, social activism, intellectual support, development of domestic markets, research intervention, media support and other progressive initiatives. Organic farming should be considered as an important component of sustainable development in India in the new millennium.

Introduction

Organic farming has grown out of the conscious efforts by concerned people to create the best possible relationship between the earth and mankind. In the present times, environment pollution has occurred due to non-application of mind by the policy makers, executives and other stakeholders of development. In the age of globalization, market forces are bent upon generating profit at the cost of culture, environment, social responsibility and human values. The entry of multinational corporations has posed serious threats to eco-friendly organic farming in reality. Several progressive movements are organized across the globe to sensitize the global community towards environmental preservation, organic farming, healthy food habits, constructive lifestyles and protection of mankind. Organic farming has been managed in India, China and other countries since the nature is the best role model and the agricultural system is based on complete understanding of nature. An overview of organic farming in India is presented in this paper on the basis of secondary data analysis.

Concept of Organic Farming

The word 'organic' means natural matter or a substance. It is derived from the living matter. The word 'farming' refers to cultivation of crops to produce the food grains for consumption by the people. The phrase 'organic farming' means the production of food by natural methods without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or other artificial chemicals. The National Standards Board of the US Department of Agriculture defines: "Organic farming is an ecological management production system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on the minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony".

Wikipedia defines : "Organic farming is a form of agriculture that relies on techniques such as crop rotation, green manure, compost, and biological pest control. It strictly limits the use of various methods including synthetic petrochemical fertilizers and pesticides, plant growth regulators such as hormones, antibiotic use in livestock, genetically modified organisms, human sewage sludge and nonmaterials for reasons including sustainability, openness, independence, health and safety.

The word 'organic' means origin from a living thing and farming with the philosophy of organic is to make production system alive with long life. It is not just to replace fertilizers and pesticides with manure and predators' but it is an ongoing dynamic process for making healthy soil, and ultimately a vital living system of the world. Organic farming is similar to the other sustainable farming systems- perm culture, eco-farming etc which are based on harmony with nature or near to nature approach (Sharma, 2001:13).



Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It emphasizes the use of management practices in preference to the use of off-farm inputs, taking into account that regional conditions require locally adapted systems. This is accomplished by using, where possible, agronomic, biological, and mechanical methods, as opposed to using synthetic materials, to fulfill any specific function within the system, according to Food and Agricultural Organization.

Organic Farming in India

Practically, agriculture meets the basic needs of India's growing population. According to the latest statistics, about 70% of the people in India primarily depend on agriculture which provides more than 20% of income to the national economy. Agriculture also provides more than 10% to the export sector in India. Agriculture provides employment opportunities, raw materials and economic support considerably in a developing country in India. A vast majority of agricultural land comes under rain fed cultivation and agriculture becomes the foremost sector under primary development in the country. Unfortunately, many peasants are born in debt, live in debt and die in debt in India according to the observations made by several economists. There are many peasants who are suffering from inadequate financial support, poor infrastructural facilities and low standard of living in India despite the so called 'green revolution'.

There are big landlords across the country that has impeded the strict implementation of land reforms in the country. The central and state governments have failed to redistribute the land and facilitate judicious access to land resources which benefit the marginalized sections of society. In the age of globalization, the creation of special economic zones has deprived the farmers from their right to land ownership and agricultural progress, according to empirical evidence. In India, the government has failed to ensure the expansion of irrigation and electricity facilities in the post-independence era. The small farmers and landless workers have become the worst victims of circumstances.

The big farmers became the prominent beneficiaries of green revolution which has planted the seeds of red revolution across the country. The use of chemicals and fertilizers has brought about decreasing fertility of soil and increasing ill health of the farmers and consumers in the country. Scholars have observed that farming has been considered in India as a livelihood, a source of income and a way of life interwoven with the farmers' socio-economic, political and cultural life. Economists have stated that India has to achieve 4% in order to cross double digit in terms of GDP. The agricultural sector has not grown commendably in India in the post-independence era due to lack of political will among the rulers.

Organic farming is not new to India. Only it has been forgotten in due course of time due to ignorance. Ever increasing population and changes in life style forced scientists and farmers to develop technologies, which excessively depend upon use of synthetic chemical inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides. The resultant 'Green Revolution' helped our country to tide away the serious gap between the demand and supply of food grains. No doubts it was a great success story but non-judicious use of chemical inputs for boosting crop production has unleashed havoc and is posing danger to our ecosystem (Mayee, 2010:07). It has not only polluted soil and water to the point of health hazards but affecting the quality of food products. Organic farming is seen as a solution to many problems but it is still not fully understood by many farmers and their mentors.

The agro – based activities such as dairying, sericulture, horticulture, fisheries etc are also encouraged by the government organizations, banks and cooperatives. The introduction of crop insurance scheme has also benefited the farmers in the country. The national and provincial dairy development corporations have also facilitated considerable white revolution in the field of animal husbandry and dairy development. India has become a prominent country in the world in the field of dairy development thanks to the pivotal role played by several farm scientists and activists (Singh, 2001:16). India has also become a major player in the production of commercial crops across the globe. In the age of climate change, India has to rise to the occasion in increasing agricultural production and productivity in order to carve a niche for itself in the global economy.

Studies have reported that the partition of India took away the major fertile Indus valley. The Indian farmers had to look for short-term and immediate solutions to meet the food requirement of the country due to crises created by periodic floods and droughts and a steadily increasing population migrated to urban areas in search of livelihood. The farmers had to follow the western model of development inevitably. Modern agricultural practices and technologies were adopted by the farmers. The policy makers have laid emphasis on industrial development, urban development, defence management and other sectors of national development. Hence, agriculture is facing various constraints such as fragmentation of landholding, low productivity and conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. There are abundant investment opportunities in the sector due to the rising need for quality and value-added products.

The World War II was responsible for the political independence of many third world countries including India. Independent national governments and private business organizations also came into existence across the globe. The Indian leaders



followed western model of development because of their western liberal educational background. Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru gave prominence to industrialization of economy and modernization of agriculture in the post-independence era.

The development path of organic farming has broadly evolved from two roots; first, organic movement and concepts were influenced by Indian philosophies associated with nature, ecology, and Gandhian ideologies which initiated by non-government organizations such as Beej Bachavo Andolan. Secondly, the organic concept and movement was influenced by the market and western ideology that was based on the standards, certification and economic profits. Indian philosophy of organic farming touches all segments of the farm and farm practices such as ecology, tradition, seed preservation, animal welfare, self-reliance, and sensible use of energy, conservation of water and soil that connects the farming with nature and life forces and brings in the holistic perspective of farming (Alvarez, 1996:01). Organic farmers relate organic agriculture to nature and culture, which go together, and it does not exploit the land for market driven production.

The organic farming philosophy is associated with the Gandhian views of Village Swaraj in India. Gandhi had strongly advocated the natural farming method from the point of view of sustainable development. He stated that natural farming encouraged the production of raw materials within the agricultural land to meet the individual and family needs and thereby reduce farmers' dependency, alienation or exploitation in the society. He also encouraged the development of organic village industries in the community that helps in protecting the food security of the region and the development of food processing units across the country. He encouraged the farmers to adopt organic farming as a practice which promotes the introduction of appropriate technology for the progress of farmers and village economy. He emphasized that organic farming gave importance for local techniques, village level industry and local markets for localizing organics in the country. The organic farming practice minimized the mechanization of agriculture, promoted self-reliance and self-sufficiency of family and village in food production and political autonomy for farmers, village, or community to empower the society.

India witnessed different progressive movements across the country in the decade of 1970s. The most significant one was the Chipko Movement (1973) launched by Sunderlal Bahuguna in Central Himalaya. It was indeed a historical movement for the protection of forest and mineral resources in the country. It also created a consciousness to protest against different social issues such as alcoholism, domestic violence and women's representation in village councils etc across the country. Forest – based development conflicts in the tribal zones of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh recognized the inter-connection between nature and human subsistence.

The green revolution was launched in India by the government headed by Indira Gandhi who implemented series of progressive schemes such as land reforms, nationalization of banks, 20 point programme, and green revolution. The green revolution practically benefitted the big farmers who were capable of buying modern agricultural implements, high yielding variety seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other costly synthetic inputs. The critics of green revolution strongly advocated that small and marginal farmers were the victims of green revolution since it was primarily based on commercialization of agriculture and inorganic farming in India. These two processes were strongly opposed by the progressive thinkers, activists and civil society organizations. They concentrated on the development of organic farming philosophy at the grassroots. The country observed nation-wide farmer protests against the repressive policies and programmes of central and state governments.

The constant exploitation of the farmers, tribes and people through various state development initiatives, over use of chemical fertilizers, industrial disaster of Bhopal Gas (1984) had pushed the practitioners to look for alternatives in development. The farmers and environmental movements set the stage for 'alternative movements in India'. The Indian organic farming philosophy is different from the western notion of organic farming. In India, organic farming is a school of thought, a philosophy and a way of life of farmers in their day to day agricultural practice. Cultural essence of Indian agriculture has deep roots in a traditional organic society that had co-operation and cultivated spiritual vision in its practice interlinked with nature and the spiritual world.

Organic farmers observe farming as a divine practice for the spiritual advancement and welfare in harmony with nature, family and society. Civil society ideologies promoted the farmers to practice a disciplined life by subjugating the individual desires of market driven farm practices by exploiting nature. The country also witnessed several farm movements such as Beej Bachavo Andolan (Save Seeds Movement), Organic Farming and 'Go Mata' (Indian Cow) which became the central path for organic farming philosophy in India (Ranganatha, 1997:10). Organic farming has its roots in the social movements initiated by the civil society organizations, supported by the left wing, progressive farmers and environmental activists.

The Beej Bachavo Andolan was initiated by Vijay Jardhari, a Chipko activist and farmer from Jardhagaon village in Tehri Garhwal District of Uttarkhand in 1980s on the basis of Gandhian ideology. He returned to his village to engage in farming



after the success of Chipko movement. The activist persuaded many farmers in the rural areas to use native seeds and avoid the use of chemical fertilizers. He found that the continuous use of high breed seeds in the region had reduced the availability of the local, native varieties of the seeds from the farmers' fields. He popularized the use of traditional seeds and created awareness on the preservation of traditional diversity. The Beej Bachavo Andolan was influential in sowing the seeds of organic philosophy among farmers and it actively campaigned for the preservation of traditional seeds, protection of livestock, traditional knowledge and agricultural practices in the countryside.

The social activists and development practitioners had conducted workshops, conferences and seminars across the country in 1980s and brought civil society leaders, activists, organic practitioners and progressive farmers under a single platform for promoting and developing Indian organic movement. From the 1990s, civil society organizations and progressive farmers had focused on the development of different practical applications of organic farming practices through the scientific lens at the grassroots. The government of India constituted the national task force on organic farming under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, eminent farm scientist and champion of organic farming. The task force sensitized the government and civil society about the implementation of organic farming in the country.

M.S.Swaminathan advocated that the Indian organic farming philosophy laid stress on a harmonious relationship between plant, soil, microbial populations in farming and human- nature relationships in society. This philosophy is in contrast to modern agricultural practices based on individualistic, competitive and market oriented industrial farming. Series of intellectual deliberations and social activities were organized in the country to bring about awareness among the various stakeholders of sustainable development on the preservation, protection and conservation of traditional agricultural farm practices in the country.

A switch from conventional to organic production can cause substantial loss due to yield reduction, absence of separate markets for organic products that help fetch premium price, non-availability of appropriate inputs, and high certification costs. These difficulties can be addressed effectively through the concept of clustering. Considering the potential environmental benefits of organic farming and its compatibility with integrated agricultural and rural development, organizing clusters of organic farming and other SMEs may be considered as a development vehicle for developing countries like India (Dahama, 1999:03). However, economics of production of organic production of crops is often a major bottleneck in attracting farmers to take up production of organic agriculture.

In 1990s, many progressive thinkers and committed social activists championed the cause sustainable development. They propagated that organic farming was an important component of sustainable development and appealed to the farmers to adopt organic farming. The agricultural industrialization and exports increases single commodity harvests which benefitted the multinational corporations. The need for adoption of organic farming since chemical farming created a debt trap and caused the suicide of farmers (Shiva, 1989:14). The process of globalization widened the gap between the rich and poor sections of the society. The suicides by farmers highlight these high social and ecological costs of the globalization of non-sustainable agriculture in India.

Vandana Shiva and others carried out a comprehensive study on inorganic farming in India and brought out a book entitled 'Seeds of Suicide'. The book revealed that chemical farming encouraged the privatization of the seed sector under trade liberalization which has led to a shift in cropping patterns from polyculture to monoculture. The new system was followed in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka and Maharashtra states which witnessed the economic marginalization of farmers. Farmers committed suicide mainly due to the acute indebtedness, exploitation of commission agents and crop failures. The impact of trade liberalization and globalization had been felt in all nooks and corners of the country. The marginalized farmers were forced to sacrifice their lives and livelihoods, as they were unable to withstand the onslaught of the price structure.

The farmers' movements have saved and conserved the local, indigenous seed varieties, rebuilt the regional gene pool, and extended its production to wider areas through 'seed exchange', according to the study. The Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI) was established in 2003 to ensure the development of livelihoods and environment friendly farming with localization of farming at the grassroots level. The civil society organizations collaborated with organic farmers under a single banner for collective decision-making. It was registered formally in 2006 and played a key role in enabling the farmers to move back to traditional methods of farming and explore the possible innovations and experiments with the existing different alternative schools and practices.

The organic farming practices were highlighted by the media and social campaigns launched by the association and other agencies formed by the like-minded persons. These farming practices have given importance to nature, sustainable use of



land, soil, water, ecology in their farm philosophy and practice. Indian economy is based on agriculture and in tradition the entire agriculture was practiced using organic techniques. Both consumers and farmers are now gradually shifting back to organic farming in India. Many farmers in India are shifting to organic farming due to the domestic and international demand for organic food (Gehlot, 2010:05). Further, stringent standards for non-organic food in European and US markets have led to rejection of many Indian food consignments in the past. Organic farming, therefore, provides a better alternative to chemical farming.

The new economic policy of the 1990s opened up the national market to international entrepreneurs, organic farming came as agrarian discourse and conventional farmers started organic field experiments on their land. In India, most of the farms are 'organic by default' (excluding conventional). Today, farmers need to have a certification to refer their farm practice as organic and products are organic products in the market (Singh, 2001:17). Series of conferences were organized in India about the adoption of eco-friendly organic farming. The religious heads, spiritual leaders and progressive thinkers also participated actively in the organic farming movement in the country. The agricultural universities and state governments also propagated the advantages of organic farming in India. The stakeholders of organic farming prevailed upon the Government of India to launch initiatives for the continuation of organic farming all over the country.

The organic farming had gained attention among farmers, entrepreneurs, policy makers and agricultural scientists as it reduces the external expenditure on farm materials, farmers' dependency on financial loans and decreases in cost of production. The high demands of organic consumers in international and national markets and development of fair trade markets have increased the agricultural profit of the farmers in the organic market (Suresh, 2004:19). The development of Indian organic farming is associated with the expansion of agro technologically driven sustainable farming promoted by agriculture practitioners, scientists and academicians.

Different agencies have prompted organic agriculture in the country; but government initiatives did not materialize in organic farming until its eighth five-year plan. The National Democratic Alliance government headed by A.B.Vajapeyee gave prominence to organic farming. Maneka Gandhi, the then Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment introduced the green shops throughout the country for marketing organic products. The government also took a serious interest in organic farming when European markets rejected the food consignments; due to the unacceptable level of pesticides found in the Indian export commodities (Thampan, 1995:20). The government further examined the constraints of the export market, showed interest in recognizing organic farming and, certified organic farms for export purpose.

The Ministry of Agriculture played a significant role and took major decisions for the promotion of organic farming in the country. The year 2000 was a landmark year in Indian organic farming development. The Planning Commission constituted (2000) a National Steering Committee (NSC) that identified implementation of organic farming as a national challenge and suggested introduction of organic farming through projects as a major thrust area for the 10th Plan (Bhattacharya and Chakraborty, 2005:02). It recommended the introduction of organic farming in the North East Region and rain fed areas, where the consumption of agro chemicals is low or negligible.

The National Agricultural Policy (2000:08) recommended promotion of traditional knowledge of agriculture relating to organic farming and it is scientific up gradation. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture constituted (2000) a Taskforce on organic farming and recommended promotion of organic farming. The Ministry of Commerce launched the National Organic Programme in April 2000. All these measures brought about the institutionalization of organic farming in India. The state governments also followed the suit in introducing organic farming as a new way of life. The public-private partnership was also encouraged in the country to facilitate the development of organic farming.

The non-government organizations have also worked seriously for the success of organic farming in India. The critics have noted that the ultimate consequences of these developments had led to the capitalization of the organic farming movement in the country. The National Mission on Organic Farming was established in India to serve all stakeholders from organic producer to consumer, international cooperation and trade regulations, setting and maintaining standards. The mission was primarily responsible for the promotion, research, development and regulation on standards and trade. The Government of India has initiated various promotional activities such as establishment of a National Institute of Organic Farming in Ghaziabad to undertake research and development activities.

There are any players and as many stakeholders with diverse perceptions, goals and agenda, that may be sometimes counterproductive. The Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, ICAR, National Steering Committee on organic farming, commodity boards, organic farmers associations, NGOs and above all new business houses are responsible for the



promotion of organic farming in the country. The Government of India have formulated National Policy for Farmers in 2007 and called upon the states to work in close collaboration with the central government in order to empower the farmers through adoption of organic farming method.

Relevance of Organic Farming in India

Organic farming is a production system, based on renewal of ecological processes and strengthening of ecological functions of farm ecosystem to produce safe and healthy food sustainability. Organic farming avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetically compounded fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators and livestock feed additives. Organic farming systems rely upon crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, legumes, green manures, off-farm organic wastes, mechanical cultivation, mineral-bearing rocks, and aspects of biological pest control to maintain soil productivity and filth, to supply plant nutrients and to control insects, weeds and other pests. Organic agriculture represents a deliberate attempt to make the best use of local natural resources (Shiva et.al, 2004:15). The aim of organic agriculture is to create integrated, humane, environmentally and economically viable agriculture system in which maximum reliance is placed on locally or farm-derived renewable resources.

The economics of organic farming is an important concern to farmers. Favorable economics will certainly be the greatest incentive for wider adoption of organic practices in crop husbandry. Benefits such as human and animal health and environmental implications are definitely the secondary concerns. Under such circumstances, creating favorable economic conditions for organic farming becomes a formidable challenge to the policy makers in India (Partap and Vaidya, 2009:09).

The 11th Five Year Plan emphasized the need for sustainable agricultural development. Serious efforts were suggested for better methods of empowerment of peasants in the country. The World Bank also cautioned the developing countries including India to launch serious programmes for the reduction of starvation and poverty through sustainable development of agriculture and attainment of food security. The 12th Five Year Plan has also highlighted the significance of organic agricultural development. Adequate funds are provided in the plan outlay for the achievement of the goal of organic agriculture development in India.

The Government of India formulated the guidelines on organic farming to improve the status of organic farming and boost the agricultural production and productivity through technical capacity building of all the stakeholders including human resource development, technology development, transfer of technology, promotion and production of quality organic and biological inputs, awareness creation and publicity through print and electronic media. The government also realized that it was important to create technical capacity, generate scientific knowledge and identify constraints and strategies to overcome them. It is essential that organic farming promotion and technical capacity building is taken up with major focus on: (a) scientific knowledge and technical capacity building; (b) production, promotion and quality control of organic inputs; (c) soil health assessment from organic and biological perspective; (d) technology development and information generation through research and its dissemination; (e) strengthening product quality assurance system; and (f) mass awareness creation through print and electronic media.

The National Project on Organic Farming was revised in accordance with the suggestions of the experts. The objectives of the project were:

- To facilitate, encourage and promote development of organic agriculture in the country.
- To encourage production and use of organic and biological sources of nutrients like bio-fertilizers, organic manure, compost for sustained soil health and fertility and improving soil organic carbon and to promote production and use of bio-pesticides, bio-control agents etc as alternative inputs in organic farming.
- To act as nodal agency for implementation of quality control regime for bio-fertilizers and organic fertilizers, as per the requirement of FCO.
- To formulate and define standards for other unregulated organic and biological inputs and bring them under quality control mechanism, define/upgrade standards and testing protocols.
- Develop, maintain, undertake regular efficacy testing and ensure steady supply of mother cultures of bio-fertilizer and other beneficial microorganisms for nutrient mobilization and plant protection to the biological input production industry.
- To run short term certificate courses on organic system and on-farm resource management.
- To organize regular trainings and refresher courses for State Governments' quality control analysts/inspectors associated with implementation of the programme.
- To impart trainers' training on certification systems, organic management, input production and on other related aspects to certification and inspection agencies, extension agencies, farmers, industries and organizations engaged in the production, and promotion of inputs and organic farming.



- To initiate research on validation of established indigenous practices, inputs and technologies leading to development of package of practices.
- To initiate studies/surveys on biological soil health assessment under different farming systems, practices or states.
- To act as central information and data collection centre on all aspects of organic farming and dissemination of information through print and electronic media.
- Publication of training literature, Quarterly Organic Farming Newsletter, Half yearly Bio-fertilizer Newsletter and validated and documented indigenous practices.
- Technical support to existing certification systems in terms of standards formulation, designing implementation protocols, evaluation and surveillance. Policy, implementation and surveillance support to alternative farmers' group centric low-cost certification system such as PGS
- Awareness creation through seminars/conferences/trade fairs and publicity through print and electronic media.
- Support Central and State Governments in evaluation, and monitoring of various organic agriculture schemes.

Organic farming has grown in India despite several policy constraints and financial constraints. The state patronage for organic farming has created hype among and middle class gated community consumers and contributed towards the development of certified organic market. In rural areas, state initiatives have contributed towards the formation of farmers collective so as to develop local networks of organic farmers. Now there is distinction made between organic farmers and conventional farmers (Reddy, 2010:11). The organic farming witnessed a new turn when the Department of Commerce laid down certain standards for organic products which were modeled after the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movement.

Future of Organic Farming

In India, organic farming has higher demand, due to its diverse climatic conditions and provides an opportunity for the production of diverse food products as these have greater demand in the international market. The Indian Export market is flourishing and demand for Indian organic products (spices, food, textile, ayurvedic health care) in the international market has provided an opportunity for the corporate players to venture into organic market and connect 'agribusiness' to organic market (Rejendra, 2007:12). The connection of agribusiness to organic farming by the giant corporate houses has provided a livelihood threat to the small farmers in the countryside. The recent changes in the Indian organic sector have changed the qualitative nature and characteristics of organics.

The commercialization of organic farming has led to the growing tension among orthodox organic growers and converted market centered farmers over the philosophy and practice of organic farming. The consensus of organic growers is that changes in the nature of organics would lead to the organic agricultural development from alternative to conventional practices of organic farming (Hall and Mogyorody, 2001:06). Organic farming has gained momentum in the country due to certain factors like association between conventional farming and sustainable environment, institutional support given by the non-government organizations and individual commitment of organic farmers. The government and non-government organizations have to increase the awareness and preparedness among the second and third generation of farmers who lack awareness about indigenous approaches of farm practice.

With rising global demand for organic food, India is well placed to raise its share in the US\$30 billion global market of organic products given its wealth of natural resources. India has several advantages namely – a) India is strong in high quality production of tea, spices, rice, ayurvedic herbs, b) India has a rich heritage of agricultural traditions which are suitable for designing organic production systems, c) agriculture is not very intensive as regards the use of agrochemicals in several regions of India, d) labour is relatively cheap compared to agro-chemicals and e) Indian Government started to support organic agriculture on large scale and on various levels (Deshmukh and Jadhav, 2010:04) .

Conclusion

Organic farming has grown over a period of time in India considerably. By 2012, India has brought more than 5 million ha area under organic certification process. Out of this cultivated area accounts for 1.08 million ha while remaining 3.4 million ha is wild forest harvest collection area. There are certain regulatory mechanisms which have facilitated the growth and development of organic farming in India which has emerged as the single largest country with highest arable cultivated land under organic management. India has also achieved the status of single largest country in terms of total area under certified organic wild harvest collection. There is a visible conflict of interest between modern farming and organic farming in India. The country is poised for faster growth with growing domestic market. Success of organic movement in India depends upon the political will, social activism, intellectual support, development of domestic markets, research intervention, media support and other progressive initiatives. Organic farming should be considered as an important component of sustainable development in India in the new millennium.



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