

Organic Farming Policy Features & Ready-to- Replicate Best Practices from states of India

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Why Organic Farming?

- Degraded State of Environmental Resources: if productive resources are eroded, farm livelihoods are obviously impacted
 - Acute as well as chronic health impacts of agri-chemicals, in addition to impacts on other living organisms
 - Reducing out-of-pocket investments in agriculture, and thereby indebtedness for cultivation purposes
 - Both mitigation and adaptation potential highest in the era of climate change – lower risk, resilient systems
 - Providing safe food to consumers – residue-free and may be even ‘more nutritious’ since true organic farming expands basket of crops & varieties
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IT IS AN IMPERATIVE, NOT A CHOICE ANYMORE – IAASTD REPORT 2009

NOT A REPLACEMENT OF EARLIER INPUTS –

A PARADIGM SHIFT DRIVEN BY POST-MODERN SCIENCE

Organic Farming is

- Equally or More Productive (FAO 2007 Conference, India's ICAR All India Network Project on Organic Farming etc.)
- More profitable (Many studies, incl. on large scale agro-ecological scaling up projects in India)
- Doable at scale, as some state governments and national flagship programme are showing
- Empowering, for smallholders and women farmers – also generates employment
- Sustainable

IN INDIA, ORGANIC FARMING IN ALL ITS DIVERSITY OF AGRO-ECOLOGICAL
MODELS FOLLOWED

DIFFERENT APPROACHES

- **LIVELIHOODS APPROACH** – THIS MEANS FOCUS ON REDUCTION OF RISKS IN FARMING AND INVESTMENTS IN/COSTS OF FARMING (reducing dependency on external inputs, including bio-inputs); INCREASE IN PROFITS AND VIABILITY OF FARMING
- **ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION APPROACH** – TO SUSTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & PROTECT AGAINST DEGRADATION
- **FOOD SAFETY APPROACH** – MAKING ORGANIC AFFORDABLE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME FOR ALL INDIANS – THIS IS NOT JUST ABOUT EXPORT MARKETS & COMMERCE, BUT SAFE FOOD FOR THE MOST MALNOURISHED ALSO
- **SOCIAL EQUITY APPROACH** – ORGANIC ALLOWS FOR A WIN-WIN APPROACH ESPECIALLY WITH THE MARGINALISED – MARGINAL & SMALLHOLDER FARMERS, WOMEN FARMERS, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, ADIVASI FARMERS ETC.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE APPROACH** – BOTH MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

Social Equity approach

- Women & Organic Farming – for empowering women, for reducing burden of women's gendered roles and responsibilities, for greater household level autonomy. Recent studies show that collective farming by women is more profitable than even family farming.
- Smallholders need organic farming for economies of scope, and organic farming needs smallholders to expand (family labour, or exchange labour between smallholder households)
- Collectivisation and aggregation give scale advantages
- This is also an approach that builds on people's knowledge and skills
- “ECONOMIES OF SCALE” VS. “ECONOMIES OF SCOPE” –
Focusing on Economies of Scope is more efficient, equitable as well as sustainable

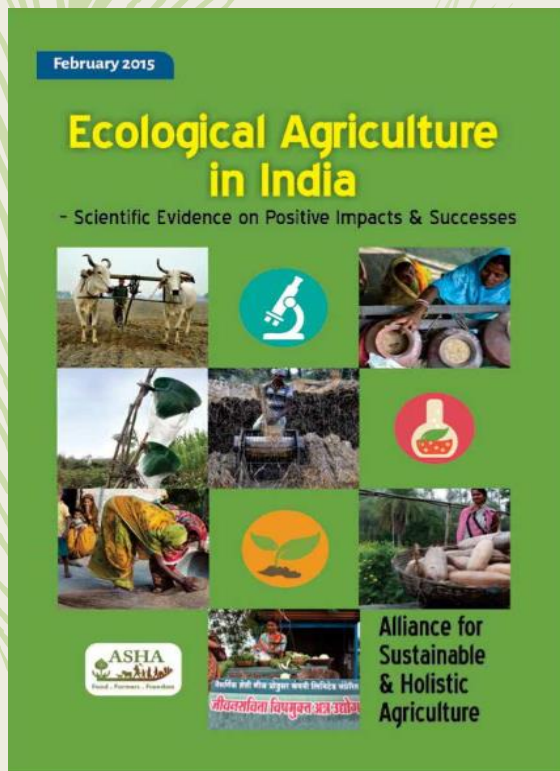
Will Organic Farming ensure food security?

United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organisation asked this question in an international conference in 2007 (food security in terms of food availability, access to food, stability of food supply systems and food utilization) and concluded the following, BASED ON A SIMPLIFIED PICTURE RELATED TO YIELDS

- In industrial countries, organic systems decrease yields; the range depends on the intensity of external input use before conversion;
- In the so-called Green Revolution areas (irrigated lands), conversion to organic agriculture usually leads to almost identical yields;
- In traditional rain-fed agriculture (with low-input external inputs), organic agriculture has the potential to increase yields – ***THIS IS THE SITUATION WITH NEPAL & INTENSIFICATION OF ORGANIC FARMING CAN ONLY LEAD TO INCREASED YIELDS***

India's ICAR's AINP on Organic Farming – initial declines in conversion in some crops. By 5th year, mostly out perform. Even in few crops with negative yields in organic, mean yield difference is 92-99%.

Scientific Evidence related to ecological agriculture



A compilation on the scientific evidence within the National Agricultural Research System in India related to ecological agriculture breaks the myth that organic farming is unprofitable, less productive or even unscientific!

– <http://www.kisanswaraj.in/wp-content/uploads/scientific-evidence-on-eco-farming-in-india.pdf>

**SIKKIM'S FOOD GRAIN YIELDS HAVE INCREASED, NOT DECREASED,
AFTER ORGANIC FARMING**

Current Picture of India's Organic Agriculture

- Accurate or Reliable Data on organic farming not present : official data put out by Commerce Ministry is based on certification related data. Ministry of Agriculture maintains scheme-based data.
- India has the largest number of organic farmers in the world (FIBL & IFOAM Year Book 2018)
- Total farm area under organic certification in 2007-08 was 865,323 hectares. By 2017-18, official data shows 2,072,795 hectares of cultivated area under NPOP & PGS-India certification regimes (240% increase in a decade). Uncertified Organic is expected to be equally large.
- This is <1.5% of India's Net Cultivated Area. If uncertified organic is estimated to be an equal area, it is 3% of India's NCA.
- In 2017-18, the production was estimated at 1.7 million MT. 0.46 million MT of this was exported, which was worth Rs. 3454 crore rupees (oilseeds 47.6%)
- Organic food market size expected to touch US\$1.5 bn by 2020 – diversity of markets (direct marketing to end consumer, to export)

Current situation

- For the first time, some *flagship* programmes around organic farming from Government of India (Central Government) – Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) started in 2015 – 947 crore rupees sanctioned b/w 2015-18 for 11891 clusters; Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) also in 2015, with 400 crore rupees outlay
- Sikkim (2003), Karnataka (2004-05), Nagaland (2007), Kerala (2008), Madhya Pradesh (2010), Himachal Pradesh (2011), Gujarat (2015), Odisha (2018) etc. have adopted Organic Farming Policies
- Mizoram has a Mizoram Organic Farming Act 2004 (for banning agri- chemicals in notified areas): Uttarakhand's Agriculture Policy (2011) has a specific chapter on creating “organic state”.
- India's organic area declined for a while after the advent and spread of Bt cotton due to GM contamination
- Cities like Bangalore and Chennai have hundreds of organic outlets, and some fully organic restaurants too. Organic Food Festivals are hugely popular
- However, even now, the overwhelming extension messages are around chemical – organic is swimming against the stream. Much R&D effort in transgenics.

	PKVY Phase I: 2015-18		CERTIFIED ORGANIC	
STATE NAME	Area, Ha	No. of Farmers	NPOP, Ha	PGS India, Ha
Andhra Pradesh	26000	65000	29749	5781
Bihar	8540	21350	18	7861
Chattisgarh	4000	10000	20531	40220
Gujarat – 6	2000	5000	81269	6954
Goa	80	200	11900	0
Haryana	400	1000	6872	597
Jharkhand	5000	12500	17388	6205
Karnataka – 5	10900	27250	86946	25840
Kerala	12380	30950	31660	3402
Madhya Pradesh – 1	27600	69000	613396	57538
Maharashtra – 2	25160	62900	235690	28191
Odisha – 4	6400	16000	105616	7108
Punjab	5000	12500	1385	2935
Rajasthan – 3	23000	57500	208571	13920
Tamil Nadu	2240	5600	17247	4712
Telangana	13800	34500	8920	6887
Uttar Pradesh	12400	31000	55197	17963
West Bengal	2400	6000	5811	2617
Assam	4400	11000	28012	6610
Arunachal Pradesh	380	950	6180	4192
Mizoram	680	1700	999	531
Manipur	600	1500	5398	761
Nagaland	480	1200	8840	1267
Sikkim – 7	3000	7500	76076	0
Tripura	1000	2500	2251	1000
Meghalaya	900	2250	40336	518
Himachal Pradesh	4200	10500	14154	6134
Jammu & Kashmir	560	1400	22870	729
Uttarakhand	11700	29250	42305	25185
Other states	22620	56550	907	643
TOTAL	237,820	594,550	1,786,494	286,301
Source: Lok Sabha Unstarred Q.1442, 12/2/2019; Unstarred Q.308, 05/02/2019				

Organic Farming Promoted through..

- “Cluster” based, or Organic Village based schemes (compact area based) – central as well as state government schemes
- Some commodities and some geographical regions strategically chosen for conversion to organic (entire districts, for example)
- Innovative Extension approaches – Farmer-To-Farmer extension through the use of Community Resource Persons
- Agriculture Research & Education being recast – National Organic Farming Research Institute (Sikkim), Regional Institute of Organic Farming in Bangalore, Research Station on Organic Farming in Mandla (Madhya Pradesh), Organic Farming University in Gujarat etc.
- Village level farmers’ collectives – Women’s Self Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations, PGS groups etc.
- Involvement of civil society groups, separate project management units and/or organic farming cells or designated officers within agriculture department etc.

Mechanisms to promote OF

- Wide publicity and demonstration of political will (Karnataka CM spending a night in an organic farmer's house every month in initial years; Kerala Agriculture Minister putting out radio advertisements etc.)
- Capacity building in addition to Innovative Extension Models – research does not drive extension, but goes hand in hand with extension – COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS as frontline extension persons
- Integrated Farming Systems approach (livestock also): Convergence between different departments – Karnataka's "Organic Village Scheme" integrates extension, training, soil, seed, livestock, marketing.
- Equal emphasis on production aspects as well as marketing systems
- Flexible design in implementation: NGO + Department + Farmers' collective bank account at the ground level for funds operation – localized decision-making
- Diverse markets being set up – local as well as export
- Free (group) certification is a key component

Mechanisms to promote OF

- Seed Banks at community level as a budget component
- Right now, in Karnataka, Cooperatives' federation (14 federations) for supporting marketing *a la* dairy cooperatives' structure
- Funds for eligible entrepreneurs with subsidy/grant component or credit guarantee fund for bank credit
- Large scale awareness campaigns: both about ill effects of chemical agriculture and positives of organic farming, with farmers and consumers
- Regulation of agri-chemicals & prohibition of GMOs an essential part
- 'BEGIN WITH RAINFED AREAS, WITH LOW EXTERNAL INPUT FARMING' IS A KEY STRATEGY IN MOST PLACES

DON'TS

Do not put out contradictory extension messages with the same set of farmers

Do not create only 3-year schemes for conversion to OF, need longer time

Do not neglect processing and value addition investments

Institutional Mechanisms

- Policy level – State Organic Missions, along with state level organic farming committees – inter-departmental bodies with civil society and farmers included
- Programme level – Steering Groups, Project Management Units, Nodal or Anchor Resource Organisations etc. with local agriculture department officials designated for OF
- Grassroots level – farmers' collectives / women's SHGs, with Community Resource Persons as the main extension agents
- Multi-disciplinary research teams as in the case of Andhra Pradesh's CRZBNF
- Marketing cooperatives and their federations, separately, where required
- Non-farmer, small scale private enterprises also

OF policies: Ready reference

Karnataka: http://raitamitra.kar.nic.in/kda_booklet.pdf & <https://organics-millets.in/assets/pdf/Organic-Policy-Book-English-Final.pdf>

Himachal Pradesh: <http://www.hpagriculture.com/Organic%20Farming%20Policy.pdf>

Kerala: <http://keralabiodiversity.org/images/pdf/organicfarmingpolicyenglish.pdf>

Nagaland:

<http://www.nagaland.gov.in/Nagaland/UsefulLinks/State%20Organic%20Policy.pdf>

Sikkim: <http://www.sikkimorganicmission.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/policy.pdf>

Uttarakhand: http://www.organicuttarakhand.org/org_policy.html

Madhya Pradesh: http://www.mpkrishi.org/krishinet/hindisite/pdfs/javikneeti_eng.pdf

Gujarat: <http://agri.gujarat.gov.in/hods/index.htm>

Odisha: <https://odxpress.com/wp-content/uploads/Odisha-Organic-Farming-Policy-2018.pdf>

(LAWS, POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND SCHEMES EXIST IN DIFFERENT STATES)

POLICIES CANNOT BE ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL – THE KEY FEATURE OF ORGANIC FARMING POLICIES SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE DIVERSITY OF APPROACHES FOR DIVERSE FARMING CONDITIONS, INCLUDING BUDGET COMPONENTS, AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS TO BE ADOPTED ETC. OTHER THAN PACKAGE OF PRACTICES

NEPAL'S UNIQUE STRENGTHS

- Ample resources – forest cover ensuring good soil, nutrition and water
 - No chemical factories – valuable foreign exchange going into imports from elsewhere can also be saved
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- Agrarian history, knowledge, skills and innovation
 - Subsistence, rainfed farming
 - Local markets that can be built
 - Big industry lobby not heavily influencing policy making
 - Women in agriculture
 - Smallholder farming
 - People-centric governance

ORGANIC IS VERY MUCH POSSIBLE, AND IS THE WAY TO GO!

For further information....



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