ORGANIC FARMING: BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan
Assistant Professor
PG & Research Department of Economics
Government Arts Colleges, C. Muthur, Chidambaram, Cuddalore District

Abstract

This treatise aims at the role of the benefits and challenges of organic farming. Health benefits are becoming more and more important as relatives and families become more aware of the foods they eat. These are products developed for organic farming. People used to use high quality local vegetables, heartbeats and organic products. This has resulted in longevity and a solid way of life. This treatise outlines the benefits and challenges of organic farming and current scenarios in India.

Keywords: Organic farming, Organic products, Soil health, Climate Change,

Introduction

According to Yadava (2019), agricultural development policies in developing countries focus on increasing agricultural land productivity while increasing product efficiency at low cost with little or no harm to people or the environment. Nedumaran et al. (2020) The organic farming system has received increasing attention over the last decade to provide some solutions to the problems facing the agricultural sector today. Organic farming can bring benefits in terms of environmental protection, protection of non-renewable resources and improved food quality. Charyulu and Dwivedi, (2016) Organic farming is a social need. Not only from the consumer's point of view, but also from the farmer's point of view. To transform small-scale agriculture into sustainable agriculture, organic farming has the potential to become a versatile drug that can lay the foundation for sustainable agriculture, reimburse the cost of conversion and maintain soil sustainability.

Organic farming can be defined as an agricultural process that uses organic fertilizers and pesticides derived from animal and vegetable waste. Organic farming was actually started as a response to environmental pollution caused by the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. In other words, organic farming is a new agricultural system that restores, maintains and improves ecological balance. Organic farming is a form of agriculture that maintains and improves the natural balance of the environment. In other words, this cultivation technique uses organic fertilizers.
Traditional agricultural practices include the use of fertilizers, harmful pesticides, and other techniques that have a significant negative impact on the ecosystem. The purpose of organic farming is to produce clean food for consumers while maintaining soil fertility and contributing to ecosystem balance.

Organic farming can be defined as an agricultural process that uses organic fertilizers and pesticides derived from animal and vegetable waste. Organic farming was actually started as a response to environmental pollution caused by the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. In other words, organic farming is a new agricultural system that restores, maintains and improves ecological balance. Organic farming is a form of agriculture that maintains and improves the natural balance of the environment. In other words, this cultivation technique uses organic fertilizers.

Traditional agricultural practices include the use of fertilizers, harmful pesticides, and other techniques that have a significant negative impact on the ecosystem. The purpose of organic farming is to produce clean food for consumers while maintaining soil fertility and contributing to ecosystem balance. This cultivation technique enables environmentally friendly long-term economic development. Agriculture in India should focus on increasing farmland productivity with minimal cost, increased product efficiency, and little or no harm to humans or the environment. Organic farming systems have become increasingly important in recent years as they offer some solutions to the current problems of our agricultural sector.

Types of Organic Farming

**Pure organic farming**

Pure organic farmers do not want to use a lot of skill in their work. This is different from an integrated organic farming system that uses all available technologies to make life easier and produce more food. However, they do not yet contain large amounts of chemicals or pesticides.

**Integrated Organic Farming Systems**

Integrated organic farming involves the integration of technologies aimed at meeting ecological and economic needs, including: B. Integrated crop protection and nutritional management. Organic farming is a social demand from both consumer and farm perspectives.

**Need For Organic Farming in India**

Organic farming is a social demand from both consumer and farm perspectives. To transform small-scale farming into sustainable farming, organic farming can be a remedy that can lay the foundation for sustainability, repay conversion costs and maintain soil sustainability. India accounts for only 2.59% of total organic acreage, even though it accounts for 30% of all organic producers in the world. Most farmers are scarce in resources and purchasing sufficient fertilizers and chemicals is beyond their means, thereby promoting organic farming. In addition, organic farming is beneficial to small and dispersed farm owners.
Benefits of Organic Farming Practices

1. Organically grown fruits and vegetables are much better in flavor and nutrients as they are slow to develop and cannot be pumped with artificial substances.

2. Organic farming minimizes the use of pesticides and chemicals, thereby reducing major environmental problems.

3. Crop rotation increases soil fertility, animal growth naturally helps promote biodiversity, and brings great health benefits to all species.

4. Organic farming does not rely on synthetic fertilizers, which contribute to a greater source of energy savings. Organic farming systems reduce energy consumption by at least 30-50%.

5. Organic farming is a sustainable and long-term food production method because it takes a prophylactic and prophylactic approach.

6. Organic farming improves soil and reduces soil erosion. In addition, soils with improved structure, higher organic matter content and more compact growth of organic crops promote better water management in agriculture.

BENEFITS OF ORGANIC FARMING

Organic is GMO free

According to USDA standards, genetically modified seeds cannot be used for organic farming. Foods containing genetically modified products are usually not labeled as such, so organic seals are important to consumers who consume these new foods in a restricted manner. Most GM crops are designed to be resistant to herbicides, so these crops may have been sprayed with glyphosate pesticides.

Organic home gardening is less expensive than using chemicals.

Spraying pesticides is more work than most home gardeners want to achieve. By talking to neighbors and gardening center experts, home growers should be able to identify plants and cultivation techniques that do not require pesticide application. When practicing at home, organic makes more sense. Organic gardening at home tends to lead to a deeper understanding of the intent behind organic labels.

Organic growing is proven to be sustainable over long periods of time.

Organic principles work well when practiced over time. A good organic plan will not only bring about a good harvest, but also increase the productivity of the land for the next harvest. Industrial agriculture is a relatively new practice and there are various records of agricultural sustainability.
Food produced without chemicals is better for the environment and our health

Agricultural chemicals and fertilizers approved for organic production are usually derived from natural products and have little impact on the environment. Neonicotinoid pesticides associated with honeybee population decline are not permitted in organic production. Exposure of agricultural workers to pesticides should be of greater public concern. Despite the warning printed on the label, workers around the world are still exposed to toxic pesticides on a daily basis. Despite FDA approval, there are still too many unclear points about the chronic health effects of pesticide use to be considered completely safe.

There’s pride in cooperating with nature.

A closed production system that does not rely heavily on external inputs has its beauty. Developing a system that works within the constraints of the environment is a major challenge for farmers. The creativity needed to develop such a system can be evaluated like a work of art.

CHALLENGES OF ORGANIC FARMING

Mainstream consumers have quality standards that are difficult for organic farmers to meet.

Perforated lettuce and scabbed apples may be of excellent nutrition and taste quality, but are always overlooked by shoppers. Consumers have been educated to look for foods with the characteristics of Barbie
dolls. Organic growers have a high percentage of defective produce that is not on the market, limiting their revenue.

**Profitability is low due to low food prices and high land.**

Most farmers I know have day labor jobs to support the farming they do at night and on weekends. Despite the growing attention of smallholders in recent years, the reality is that most farmers are not yet profitable companies.

**Organic farming on an industrial scale is difficult.**

Many organic crops, like traditional crops, are grown in a single crop, but use pesticides and fertilizers that are approved as organic. Organic farmers typically spray pesticides more often than traditional farmers to keep up with the pressure of insects and diseases. Organic farming is smaller and much more effective than industrial scale.

**There are many contradictory ideas about the organic meaning.**

Many consumers buy organic because it seems to be an ethical choice. But how can big companies (Wal-Mart, General Mills, Kellogg, etc.) grow organically and perform better than the produce grown in their towns? Does Organic Really Mean Pure? How does the ethics of buying organic produce compare to buying local or fair trade? Maybe we are ready for a new standard.

Organic certification is exclusive

Many smallholders do not justify the cost of organic certification. Some use methods that are very well suited to their production and environment, but still do not qualify for organic seals. When shopping at farmers markets, you can talk to farmers about how the food was grown.

**Four Challenges of Organic Farming that you should know**

1. **Time is Critical**

   One of the main issues in organic farming is timing. This is not the case in all cases, but in general, organic products and meat require an efficient supply chain to reach the market faster. The main difference between organic and traditional farming is that fewer chemicals are used throughout the food manufacturing process. However, despite obvious health benefits, organic produce is generally prone to spoilage for a variety of reasons. Due to temperature fluctuations in transit and generally unacceptable shelf life, organic agricultural products need to be consumed faster to ensure food safety and attractiveness.
2. Pests want your Organic Products too

Another important challenge for organic farming is the spread of pests as old as agriculture itself. Pests such as rodents and insects are responsible for destroying crops if left unchecked. For this reason, humans have long used chemicals called pesticides to effectively fight. However, many of these chemicals are not naturally derived and are harmful to the environment and are not permitted in organic farming. Therefore, organic producers need to find alternative and effective ways to deal with pests. Although pesticides from organic farming are banned, there are still some pesticides made from natural ingredients that are still available to organic farmers. Other ways to combat pests include crop diversification, the use of traps, obstruction of mating, or the use of birds and other insects.

3. It is Harder to Market Organic Products

As mentioned above, in organic farming it is important to bring fresh and nutritious products to market quickly. However, in a culture where long commute and online orders are common, organic products are at a disadvantage. For this reason, organic farmers need to find a local route to distribute their produce, which is not always possible. Alternatively, farmers need to invest in high quality air-conditioned vehicles to enable longer journeys. In this way, organic products can reach distant markets that are in high demand.

4. Limited Supply of Organic Food

The final challenge of organic farming is low production compared to traditionally grown foods. In addition to reduced production, primarily due to the abandonment of industrial fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, organic farming requires more land to reach previous production levels. To deal with this, farmers need to do their homework and plan their harvest in advance. They need to make sure that a particular cultivar or crop type is suitable for the area and that what they grow is always seasonal.

Major Challenges in Organic Farming in India

Some of the disadvantages of organic farming in India are:

1. Many farmers and professionals are uncertain whether all nutrients can be provided in the required amount by organic materials. It may be assumed that the available organic matter is insufficient to meet the demand.

2. Fresh fruits and vegetables should be produced locally and should be in demand. Demand for organic matter comes primarily from metropolitan areas without agricultural land.

3. Organic farming requires more time for observation, timely management and intervention. Of course, this is more labor-intensive.

4 Organic farming products are expensive because they pay close attention to organic farming. The products on the market are twice as expensive as non-organic products, and not all consumers are willing to pay those prices.
5. Already, most large organic farms operate in the style of industrial farming, adopting the same pollution practices as hidden factory livestock under the guise of organic farming.

Conclusion

The phenomenon of "organic farming" is the only solution to manage land and regenerate soil, returning to traditional cultivation methods. H. No chemicals, pesticides or fertilizers are used. This is a possible step towards sustainable development by choosing not to use chemicals, synthetic materials, pesticides or growth hormones to produce high nutritional quality and reasonable amounts of food (Onkar and Suryawanshi, 2019). Organic farming is an alternative farming system that is rapidly changing farming patterns. It relies on compost from natural sources such as fertilizers, green manure and bone feasts, rather than without pesticides and fertilizers.

Reference

Vasilis Bouronikos | 23 June, 2020 | 3 min(s) read, institute of entrepreneurship development

Humanity welfare council, *Posted On* Tuesday, June 7, 2022


Moses Kathuri Njeru (2015), Challenges and Benefits of Organic Farming among Farmers in Nembure Division, Embu County-Kenya, International Journal of Humanities and Social Science, ISSN 2220-8488 (Print), 2221-0989 (Online)