



## ORGANIC FARMING- SCOPE IN INDIA

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### Abstract

As per the definition of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) study team on organic farming “organic farming is a system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetic inputs (such as fertilizers, pesticides, hormones, feed additives etc) and to the maximum extent feasible rely upon crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, off-farm organic waste, mineral grade rock additives and biological system of nutrient mobilization and plant protection”.

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### 1. WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?

*Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam stated “Organic agriculture, a holistic system that focuses on improvement of soil health, use of local inputs and relatively high intensity use of local labor, is a admirable fit for dry lands in many ways and the dry land offer many benefits that would make it relatively easy to implement.”*

Organic farming system in India is not new and is being followed from ancient time. It is a method of farming system which primarily aimed at cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way, as to keep the soil alive and in good health by use of organic wastes (crop, animal and farm wastes, aquatic wastes) and other biological materials along with beneficial microbes (biofertilizers) to release nutrients to crops for increased sustainable production in an eco friendly pollution free environment.

### 2. NEED OF ORGANIC FARMING:

With the increase in population our compulsion would be not only to stabilize agricultural production but to increase it further in sustainable manner. The scientists have realized that the ‘Green Revolution’ with high input use has reached a plateau and is now sustained with diminishing return of falling dividends. Thus, a natural balance needs to be maintained at all cost for existence of life and property. The obvious choice for that would be more relevant in the present era, when these agrochemicals which are produced from fossil fuel and are not renewable and are diminishing in availability. It may also cost heavily on our foreign exchange in future.



### 3. THE KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF ORGANIC FARMING INCLUDE:

Organic farming approach involves;

1. Conversion of land from conventional management to organic management.
2. Management of the entire surrounding system to ensure biodiversity and sustainability of the system.
3. Crop production with use of alternative sources of nutrients such as crop rotation, residue management, organic manures are biological inputs.
4. Management of weeds and pests by better management practices, physical and cultural means and by biological control system.
5. Maintenance of livestock with organic concept and make them an integral part of the entire system.
6. Careful attention to the impact of the farming system on the wider environment and the conservation of wildlife and natural habitats.

### 4. THE FOUR PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE ARE AS FOLLOWS

**The Principle of Health** - Organic agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal and human as one and indivisible.

**The Principle of Ecology** - Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

**The Principle of Fairness** - Organic agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.

**The Principle of Care** - Organic agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well being of current and future generations and the environment.

These basic principles provide organic farming with a platform for ensuring the health of environment for sustainable development, even though the sustainable development of mankind is not directly specified in the principles.

### 5. FUTURE PROSPECTS:

The movement started with developed world is gradually picking up in developing countries. But demand is still concentrated in developed and most affluent countries. Local demand for organic food is growing. India is poised for faster growth with growing domestic market. Success of organic movement in India depends upon the growth of its own domestic markets. India has traditionally been a country of organic agriculture, but the growth of modern scientific, input intensive agriculture has pushed it to wall. But with the increasing awareness about the safety and quality of foods, long term sustainability of the system and accumulating evidences of being equally productive, the organic farming has emerged as an alternative system of farming which not only addresses the quality and sustainability concerns, but also ensures a debt free, profitable livelihood option.

### 6. CONCLUSION

An environmentally sustainable system of agriculture like organic farming will be able to maintain a stable resource balance, avoid over exploitation of renewable resource, conserving inherent soil nutritional quality and soil health, and biodiversity. It will lead us to sustainable agriculture and create a sustainable lifestyle for generations to come.