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CONSTRAINTS OF ORGANIC FARMING IN INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

The concept of organic farming has been accepted globally. According to the global survey of organic farming 2016 conducted by research institute of organic agriculture (FiBL), at present Organic agriculture is practiced in 179 countries, and 50.09 million hectares of agricultural land are managed organically by approximately 2.3 million farmers which is 6.5 million hectares more than 2014. The global sales of organic food and drink reached 89.7 billion US dollars in 2016. The USA is the leading market with 39.8 millions Euros. Australia has the largest area of land devoted in organic farming. In the year of 2016, 2.7 million organic producers were observed. India continues to be the country with the highest number of producers (835'200), followed by Uganda (210'352), and Mexico (210'000).

Currently there has been growing health consciousness globally in term of food quality, taste, safety and concern for upkeep of environmental quality which has resulted wide spread of organic movement and large demand of organic food products. Although, Organic Farming is being envisaged tradionally in India by large farming community since centuries but now is practiced using scientific knowledge through use of organic inputs like biofertilizers, compost, agriculture crop residues, green manures, oil cakes, as well as other locally available organic resources. The biggest differences between conventional and organic food production is the requirement for the certification. Certification is the procedure by which a written assurance is given by the certification agencies (i.e. third party) that a clearly identified production or processing system has been methodically assessed and conforms to the specified requirements. This certification is done under a valid National Standards of Organic production. Organic inspection and certification are complex tasks and regulations and accreditation criteria are manifold.

Definition of Organic Farming:

Organic agriculture includes all kind of food and fiber production system and can be defined as essentially a chemical free farming system to produce uncontaminated farm produce of high

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nutritional quality in sufficient quantity. It allows agriculture producers to cover their needs by obtaining adequate returns, satisfaction from their work, and a safe working environment. It aims to further create ecologically, socially and economically sustainable system of food and fiber production. Organic agriculture production system has been defined to promote and enhance agro system. Agro ecosystem includes biodiversity, biological cycle and soil biological activities.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design:

The present study is analytical in nature and comprises secondary data which is collected from books, periodicals, journals and news papers. Information has also been taken from the websites.

Objectives of the Study:

The major objectives of the study are to find out the constraints of organic farming in India.

In reality, the Indian farmers have not understood the concept of organic farming. Further-the certification procedures are so expensive and complicated that it is beyond scope of ordinary farmers which needs to be addressed. Proper awareness is also not available. However, organic farming could be successful only, when sufficient quantity of locally available organic inputs are available, but in India adequate availability of organic manure is a major challenge to meet the growing demand. Locally organic manure availability in rural areas are less which mostly depend on city compost which is not safe, since sometimes it contains heavy metals and carcinogen. Organic manures release nutrients slowly on the other hand, the farmer is habituated with use of chemical fertilizers whose crop response is quick, makes impatient to get quick crop response which makes less acceptance to organic farming.

Due to its conceptual low unit area productivity, Organic farming is more suitable for fruit, vegetable, plantation and cash crops on the other hand, in India mostly cereals, millets and Pulses are cultivated largely to meet the food demand of growing population. If organic farming on large scale practiced it could result shortage of agricultural production to meet the increased food demand of ever increasing human population. Although, many of the organic inputs like farmyard manures, compost, oil cakes, vermicastings are being sold in attractive brand names in open market but no BIS standards are available so as to evaluate about the quality of the organic inputs except bio-fertilizers, which needs immediate attention. Further the organic manures are bulky, heavy and transportation becomes difficult for use in large tracts of organic farms. Although green manures are highly useful but it needs irrigation facilities as well as it is labour intensive. Moreover green manures consume much time to decompose which makes its use

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limited. The package of practices of organic farming is not available for group of crops or specific crops under different agro climatic conditions which needs utmost attention to develop.

Organic farming aims to develop the agro system through integrated approach of crops, livestock as well as agro forestry which is difficult to provide by a single farm or farmer under Indian conditions. Hence, in order to make organic farming a success, community approach in form of a co- operative is a must approach like ASHTA village type model developed near Mahar in Nanded District in Maharastra, where farmers are growing organic cotton in rain fed areas. Based in this concept, organic farms in Gujarat in other parts of Maharastra and Haryana have emerged.

The land holding areas in India are traditionally small and scattered in rural India despite Government efforts through land consolidation programmes to increase land area since organic farming needs large area. Moreover, in India entire crop grown in the field is harvested wherein grains are used food and the straw are used either for fodder or allied works and no crop residues are returned to soil for recycling as compared to advanced countries where in, the straw is mechanically mulched in the soil for crop nutrition. Such practices need to be adopted. In rural India, animal dung are dried and used for fuel despite the fact that Government have facilitated to use dung in Gobar gas plants to get fuel as well as manure, which makes animal dung under utilised as organic resource.

Organic farming is successful in US and Europe due to their community approach but such developed infrastructure, coordinated effort and information services are difficult to develop in India. However, the following constraints presently faced in India needed to be addressed.

- Many of organic production practices are grouped under restricted use category.
- Organic Certification stipulates stringent organic production protocols which are very difficult to practice.
- The certification costs are prohibitive.
- Needs legislation to monitor whole gamut of organic production and produce.
- Slow action of botanical pesticide soften spoil the desired crop before crop is produced.
- No appropriate scientifically proven technology available.
- Organic foods are perishable early, needs infrastructure development for quick export.
- Difficulties for running organic shops and development of organized organic market.
- Concept of quality management as envisaged by ISO-9000 is not keenly implemented.

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CONCLUSION

Organic farming is successful in US and Europe due to their community approach but such developed infrastructure, coordinated effort and information services are difficult to develop in India. However, the constraints presently faced in India needed to be addressed. The biggest challenge is the lack of a National Organic Policy for the domestic market and imports. In the absence of regulation on labeling standards for organic production and logo, it is not possible to distinguish organic products from a conventional product. The Indian farmers have not understood the concept of organic farming. Further-the certification procedures are so expensive and complicated that it is beyond scope of ordinary farmers which needs to be addressed. Proper awareness is also not available.

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