

Observations on the State of the Art: Perceptions, potential, and progress in organic agriculture

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Abstract

In expanding outside of the sphere of small-scale or backyard producer, organic agriculture becomes problematic. Rather than availing in a diversity of nature-assisted, cost-effective techniques, commercial farmers are attracted to the technical simplicity of the green revolution model.

Convention holds that the best scenario is biodiversity reinforced by a wide range of organically oriented farming techniques. This produces numerous alternatives to the green revolution model. This also introduces a high degree of biocomplexity.

It is through the development of simplifying rules or guidelines that lesser known, often biodiverse, farming techniques are brought into the mainstream. As a corollary, numerous alternatives mean getting away from a single, regional land-use pattern, heading instead to a future where commercial farms employ wide-ranging approaches. In being able to select from a long menu of nature friendly options, individual plots and entire farms can and should vary greatly their outward appearance.

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