

Organic Farming in China: Status quo, lessons, and experiences

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Abstract

Modern organic farming just started since 1990, although China has thousand years history of its operation. Challenges faced by China's agriculture, meeting the basic food demand of the large population, and also high costs on the environment, energy, and resources require different stakeholders to think of organic farming as one of the main alternatives for sustainable agriculture. Driven by exportation and operated at grassroots level, organic farming has began to influence the Chinese, including decision makers, which can be highlighted that organic farming has been listed as priority supported measures in No. 1 documents of Chinese government for several years since 2000. Organic farming already helps the exporter to overcome the technical barriers from developed country markets, and recently, the consumer's confidence for agriculture product quality has increased. For farmers, organic farming can increase their benefits, although this is far less than benefits for traders. Besides the introduction of production, marketing, regulation, administration, and policy for organic farming in China, the author also presents the findings that are from interviews, field study, consultancy, and academic research in order to better understand trends and recommendations for organic farming development in China.

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