Organic Agriculture and Food Security

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Abstract

In India, organic farming is not new to the farming community of the country. The popularity of organic farming is increasing, and it is practiced almost all over the world. Crop management practices such as crop rotation, green manuring, crop residue recycling, and water management are employed to ensure production of a sufficient quantity of rich food for human and livestock consumption. The concept of food security has been undergoing an evolutionary change during the past few years. More recently, ecological factors have been found to play a great role in determining the long-term sustainability of food security systems.

Organic farming is often understood as a form of agriculture uses organic inputs for the supply of nutrients and management of pests and diseases. Often organic agriculture has been criticized because of low farm productivity and profitability compared to inorganic methods. Overstock keeping and management play great role in organic agriculture, since the byproducts of crop cultivation are best utilized on the farm. Dairying is a proven livelihood for the poor and the marginalized people of the country.

Organic farming systems help to obtain potential sources of nutrients from crop residues, green manure, bio-fertilizers, and bio-solids from agroindustries.

It is therefore considered more eco-friendly and sustainable than a conventional system.

Crop rotations and varieties are selected to suit local conditions, having potential to sufficiently balance the nitrogen demand of crops. Other requirements of phosphorus,

Potash, sulfur, and micronutrients are met with locally available renewable resources.

Organic agriculture is therefore termed as knowledge based rather than input based agriculture. The impact of organic agriculture on natural resources is widely recognized in agriculture production and nature conservation.

The smaller the farm, the greater is the need for marketable surplus to ensure sufficient income. The gap between potential and actual yields is high in most farming systems.

Reducing the cost of production through eco-technologies and improving income through efficient production and post-harvest technologies will help to enhance opportunities for both skilled employment and farm income.

Sustainable food security is defined as physical, economic, social, and ecological access to balanced diets and safe drinking water to enable every individual to lead a productive and healthy life. The nutritional intake of everyone, ranging from infants to elderly people, needs a new food security based on technology and public policy. As an urgent measure for strengthening food security at the level of individuals and households, there is no better option than initiating systematic effort in each agro-climatic zone to identify and remove the constraints responsible for the prevailing yield crops. This is applicable both to crop plants and livestock, including fisheries.

The organic production methods of food materials involve a wide range of holistic ways and means to get the real benefits envisioned by organic cultivation practices. The outreach, the impact, and sustainability of individual farmers or farmers' groups actually play a great role in switching over to organic cultivation by the farming communities in stage by stage over a short period of time, taking into account the benefits of organic food production practices and food values in everyday life.

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Finally, the relationship between man, nature, and God is the concrete basis for organic farming. It also leads to the great potential to be exploited by humankind for the future generations in the food production and consumption practices. The true man and true food leads to human values and food values.