

FROM THE FARMERS' PERSPECTIVE: AN INVESTIGATION INTO ORGANIC FARMING

Dr. DES RAJ BAJWA

Associate Professor in Commerce, Govt. P.G. College Ambala Cantt Haryana

ABSTRACT

Introduction: *It's no secret that India's agricultural industry is one of its most respected.*

Aim of the study: *the main aim of the study From the Farmers' Perspective: An Investigation into Organic Farming*

Material and method: *Complete analysis of issues and perspectives from previous national and international studies on organic farmers, along with their resulting observations, are presented.*

Conclusion: *Given that the majority of people in the world will soon be living in developing countries, it is crucial that these nations adopt practises that promote long-term food security.*

1. INTRODUCTION

India is predominantly rural, and its agricultural sector has historically been a barometer of national prestige. Farmers in India's culture have been fixated on developing a sustainable farming method. It's safe to assume that agriculture plays a significant role in our economy. When it comes to the economy, a farmer is primarily dependent on agricultural activities, and this sector has its own unique set of priorities and needs. Climate-wise, India is an ideal place to plant and tend a garden. In the European continent, this illness is notably absent. In addition, the soil is much gentler than that of European countries. Because of this, European nations no longer prioritise agriculture as a primary economic sector. One of the most important requirements for farming is soil that is both soft and fertile. This is why agriculture in India is held in such high regard. Ancient people relied entirely on agriculture as their means of subsistence, as it was the only means by which their food could be produced. Yet in modern times it has become a lucrative business.

1.1 "ORGANIC FARMING"

In this enlightened age, "organic farming" has widespread support because of the damage that chemical and pesticide usage does to future generations. The majority of customers are now aware of the benefits of purchasing organic food due to the growing concern for people's health and the environment. It is the intention of the policies and initiatives to create a unique market

for organic food and encourage farmers to grow it. Health, environmental impact, food safety, and food quality are the primary motivators for people to purchase and eat organic foods. Consumers in the present day are educated about the negative effects of prolonged contact with various chemical compounds and pesticides (influence on reproductive and nervous system, cancer etc.). As a result, there is a growing demographic of eco-conscious shoppers who are more likely to support businesses that practise "organic farming" and "organic product" acceptance. A growing number of people in India and throughout the world are becoming aware that organic food and farming may help preserve natural resources while also benefiting human health. This shift in consumer mindset toward organic food is having a significant impact on those who work in the agricultural industry.

1.2 ORGANIC FERTILIZERS AND THEIR USES

Chemical fertilisers rely heavily on organic fertilisers to provide nutrients for a wide variety of crops. The rising price of chemical fertilizers, as well as their unfavourable effects on the soil and the soil's ability to produce food, should be taken into account. It is recommended that organic fertilisers be used instead of chemical ones. To a greater or lesser extent, organic fertilisers can do a wide range of beneficial things for the soil. As a result, less chemical fertilisers will need to be used if organic fertilisers rich in beneficial microorganisms are used. It also aids in the preservation of soil health and productivity. A major contributor to increased agricultural output is crop protection. Crops are vulnerable to pests and diseases both during harvest and while in storage. In biological crop protection, the crop's natural enemy is identified and then modified in a lab to serve as a pesticide. Even so-called "organic farming" still makes use of some conventional pesticides to ward off crop-destroying insects and diseases. For now, "organic farming" also includes the extraction and use of plant extracts for the purpose of warding off pests and diseases. For numerous insects and illnesses, try one of these natural insecticides.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Morshedi, Laleh&Lashgarara (2017)The purpose of this research was to assess organic farming's contribution to bettering food security from the point of view of farmers in Iran's Fars province. The research method served a practical purpose, was non-experimental in nature, and relied on a correlational approach to data analysis. Cochran's formula and a proportional stratified sampling strategy were used to select 187 of the 622 farmers in Fars province who were members of plant pathology clinics for the study. Experts verified the questionnaire's validity, and its reliability was calculated using Cronbach's alpha. The majority of farmers (55%) thought their food security was about average. The estimated standardised regression coefficients in the model indicated that technical (0.747), health and safety (0.735), and optimization of production

(0.628) capabilities were the most effective in enhancing food security from the farmers' point of view.

Wani, Sartaj & Wani, Muneeb&Mehraj (2017)Despite its tumultuous past, organic agriculture has emerged as a key priority area around the world due to rising awareness for safe and healthy food, long-term sustainability, and environmental concerns. Sustainable production against the limited natural resource base demands has steadily shifted from "resource degrading" chemical agriculture to "resource protective" organic agriculture, despite the fact that the green revolution paved the way for developing countries to become food self-sufficient. The core idea of returning to mother nature via practises like organic farming remains unchanged. Crop rotation, insect control, crop and animal diversity, and soil enrichment are all fundamental to organic agricultural practises.

Siddique, Saima & Hamid (2014)Natural and unadulterated farm goods are available to customers thanks to organic farming, a modern and sustainable method of agriculture. Organic farming is not at odds with nature but rather works in harmony with it. This is accomplished through the implementation of practises that raise agricultural output with minimal negative effects on the health of the land and its inhabitants. An unique synthesis of eco-friendly approaches, organic farming uses few outside inputs and so helps enhance food production. Birds, insects, weeds, wildlife, and the soil flora and fauna all benefit tremendously from organic farming.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the cropping pattern and increasing trend of “organic farming”
- To identify the “socio-economic” structure of the “organic farmers”

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Complete examination of issues and views from previous national and international research on organic farmers, together with their resulting findings, are provided.

4.1 Collection Of Data

Using a tried and true calendar, data were collected from a sample of 350 "organic farmers" regarding parameters related to socioeconomic characteristics and from the perspective of "organic farmers." In-depth interviews were conducted during the harvest seasons for the crops of 2016 and 2017. Selected farmers' resources and primary outputs were accurately standardised and factored into the evaluation. General household characteristics, farm size, crop structure, resources used, investment value, yields, product prices, and opinions were some of the data collected from a sample of respondents related to the 2016-2017 harvest. They cover a wide

	0.00%	15.38%	18.28%	32.29%	18.29%
4-5acres	0	12	20	11	43
	0.00%	11.54%	21.51%	11.46%	12.29%
Above5acres	0	0	11	22	33
	0.00%	0.00%	11.83%	22.92%	9.43%
Total	57	104	93	96	350
	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %
$X^2=108.815$ <i>c</i>		df: 15	$X^2=24.996$ <i>t</i>		Results:Significant

5.2.2 Area under conventional farming

The following table displays the calculated sample size of responses broken down by age group and farm size (up to 1 acre, between 1 and 2 acres, between 2 and 3 acres, between 3 and 4 acres, between 4 and 5 acres, and above 5 acres).

Table 4 Selected Sample Farmers According To Area Under Conventional Farming With Farm Size Groups

Area under conventional farming	Farm size groups				Total
	Less than 2 Acres	2 to 5 Acres	5 to 10 Acres	More than 10 Acres	
Upto 1acre	12	14	12	15	53
	21.05%	13.46%	12.90%	15.63%	15.14%
1 – 2 acres	22	22	17	27	88
	38.60%	21.15%	18.28%	28.13%	25.14%
2 – 3 acres	23	27	22	26	98
	40.35%	25.96%	23.66%	27.08%	28.00%
3 – 4 acres	0	24	20	16	60
	0.00%	23.08%	21.51%	16.67%	17.14%
4 – 5 acres	0	17	12	3	32
	0.00%	16.35%	12.90%	3.13%	9.14%
Above 5 acres	0	0	10	9	19
	0.00%	0.00%	10.75%	9.38%	5.43%
Total	57	104	93	96	350
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
$X^2=58.248$ <i>c</i>		df: 15	$X^2=24.996$ <i>t</i>		Results:Significant

5.2.3 Income Received annually from “organic farming”

Selected sample respondents' annual revenue from "organic farming," broken down into the following income brackets: below 1 lakh, 1–2 lakh, 2–3 lakh, 3–4 lakh, and 4–5 lakh, and across a range of farm sizes, as presented in the following 5 table.

Table 5 Selected Sample Farmers According To Annual Income From “Organic Farming” With Land Under Cultivation

Annual income from “organicfarming”	Farmsizegroups				Total
	Lessthan 2Acres	From2to 5Acres	Between5 to 10Acres	Morethan 10Acres	
Below1 Lakh	22	32	12	7	73
	38.60%	30.77%	12.90%	7.29%	20.86%
1to2Lakhs	35	55	11	4	105
	61.40%	52.88%	11.83%	4.17%	30.00%
2to3Lakhs	0	4	24	17	45
	0.00%	3.85%	25.81%	17.71%	12.86%
3to4Lakhs	0	9	39	27	75
	0.00%	8.65%	41.94%	28.13%	21.43%
Above4Lakhs	0	4	7	41	52
	0.00%	3.85%	7.53%	42.71%	14.86%
Total	57	104	93	96	350
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
$X^2=231.893$ <i>c</i>		df: 12	$X^2=21.026$ <i>t</i>		Results:Significant

6. CONCLUSION

Considering that the majority of people in the world will soon be living in developing countries, it is crucial that these nations adopt practises that promote long-term food security. Improved nutrition, healthier rural livelihoods, and, most importantly, increased bio-diversity from "organic farming" can all contribute to long-term food security while also making people less susceptible to the catastrophic effects of climate change. The chemical-dominated lifestyle that has led to the current era's severe weather patterns and incurable, fatal diseases has a time-tested, well-proven alternative in the natural way of life. A growing number of Indian farmers have shown an interest in organic methods in recent years. It's rapid expansion can be attributed to

organic farming's use of all-natural fertilisers and pesticides in conjunction with the low financial investment it necessitates. The people we call "organic farmers" use both modern agricultural techniques and the wisdom of their ancestors to cultivate abundant harvests. Organic manure is improving the soil's and crop's nutritional content by its application. The organic agriculture development programme provides farmers with access to education and resources, including high-quality seeds, competitive prices, and guidance on how to implement cutting-edge farming techniques.

REFERENCES

1. Morshedi, Laleh&Lashgarara, Farhad& Hosseini, Jamal &Omidi, Maryam. (2017). The Role of Organic Farming for Improving Food Security from the Perspective of Fars Farmers. *Sustainability (Switzerland)*. 9. 10.3390/su9112086.
2. Wani, Sartaj & Wani, Muneeb&Mehraj, Sheikh & Padder, Bilal & Chand, Subhash. (2017). Organic farming: Present status, scope and prospects in northern India. *Journal of Applied and Natural Science*. 9. 2272-2279. 10.31018/jans.v9i4.1523.
3. Siddique, Saima & Hamid, Madeeha& Tariq, Ameema& Gul, Alvina. (2014). Organic Farming: The Return to Nature. 2. 10.1007/978-1-4614-8824-8_10.
4. Aceleanu, M. I. (2016). Sustainability and competitiveness of Romanian farms through organic agriculture. *Sustainability*, 8(3), 245.
5. Aggarwal, P. K. (2007). Climate change: implications for Indian agriculture. *JalvigyanSameeksha*, 22(1), 37-46.
6. Altenbuchner, C., Vogel, S., &Larcher, M. (2017, September). Effects of —organic farming on the empowerment of women: A case study on the perception of female farmers in Odisha, India. In *Women's Studies International Forum* (Vol. 64, pp. 28-33). Pergamon.
7. Arumugasamy S, Subramanian K & Subhashini Sridhar (2012), —Enhancing soil fertility in —organic farming, Centre for Indian Knowledge System, July, PP.1-16.