

# Organic farming for sustainable economy

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**Key Words :** Organic farming, Population explosion

**How to cite this paper :** Kerutagi, M.G., Prabhuling, G. and Nagalika, S.S. (2013). Organic farming for sustainable economy. *Adv. Res. J. Crop Improv.*, 4 (2) : 131-135.

**Paper History :** Received : 12.08.2013; Accepted : 20.11.2013

Human beings are proud of their ability to think and feel. But their greed is affecting the whole planet. Though they are only one of the 50 million species on the planet. In Indian history 5000 years B.C, the knowledge of agricultural methods was known. Our ancestors were utilizing natural sources without disturbing natural processes. In 'Vedas,' the soil has been called as protector of all living things, animals, human beings and plant species, that is why the name has been given to soil as Dharani (Protector). This concept was vanished due to population explosion which paved the way for inorganic farming during 1960's green revolution. The green revolution on the other hand was mono-cultural and chemical intensive. It brought in prosperity with only rice and wheat but also resulted in dead soil, poisoned water and food, narrow genetic base and suicide of farmers. It is, therefore, clear that India needs biological diversity in farming. So now it is time for focusing on organic farming which encompasses diversified farming.

The global organic land area is increasing rapidly and sales are increasing by over five billion US dollar per year. India is bestowed with lot of potential to produce all variety of organic crops. India ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in world area under organic farming. Madhya Pradesh has the highest area under organic farming (1.1 million ha or 52%) followed by Maharashtra (0.96 million ha or 33.60%) and Orissa (0.67 million ha or 9.70%). India exported 86 items (2010-11) with the total volume of 6987 MT. The export realization was around 157.22 million US \$ registering 33 per cent growth over the previous year (Prashanth *et al.*, 2013). However, the share of India in organic production is around two per cent only. But there is a considerable latent

interest among farmers in conversion to organic farming in India. But some farmers are reluctant to convert because of the perceived high costs and risks involved. Despite the attention which has been paid to organic farming over the last few years, very little accessible information actually exists on the costs and returns of organic farming in India. The present paper focuses on reviewing the feasibility of organic farming, overcoming draw backs if any to improve farmer's economy, soil and human wealth.

Organic farming, would be a farming system devoid of chemical inputs, in which the biological potential of the soil and underground water resources are conserved and protected from the natural and human induced degradation or depletion by adopting suitable cropping system including agro-forestry and methods of organic replenishment besides natural and biological means, which are used for pest and disease control.

### Features of conventional farming :

- Conventional farming is not sustainable and results in decrease in yield.
- Imbalance use of inorganic fertilizers and its ill effect on physical, chemical and biological properties of soil.
- Imbalance of natural enemies due to inorganic chemicals and its effect on health of human beings and animals.
- Continuous mono cropping leads to ill effects on natural processes.
- Inefficient use of natural resources like soil water, plant and animals.
- Inorganic farming heavily uses costly inputs which