

Comparative economics of organic and inorganic farming

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ABSTRACT

Investigation was undertaken to estimate cost and returns in organic and inorganic farming considering cotton, pigeonpea, mung in *Kharif* season and wheat in *Rabi* season. For these, total 100 samples were studied out of which 50 were organic cultivators and 50 were inorganic cultivators. The gross income was observed higher in organic farming. Input-output ratios were higher in organic farming as compared to inorganic farming. They were 1.49 against 1.27 for cotton, 1.64 against 1.53, for pigeonpea, 1.54 against 1.38 for mung and 1.49 against 1.28 for wheat at cost 'C'. The major constraints observed were lack of awareness, high input cost, low yield, certification from government and poor market linkage.

INTRODUCTION

Organic farming is one of the several approaches found to meet the objectives of sustainable agriculture. Many techniques used in organic farming like inter-cropping, mulching and mix cropping with livestock are not alien to various agriculture systems including the traditional agriculture practiced in old countries like India. However, organic farming is based on various laws and certification programmes, which prohibit the use of almost all synthetic inputs, and health of the soil is recognized as the central theme of the method.

Consumers in many countries willingly pay for organically grown fruits, vegetables and other food products. Organic farming technology is becoming popular among farming community as its input cost is lower and returns are higher. The time has come to popularize the slogan "No Pesticide, No Suicide" for giving better to farmer for their produce.

METHODOLOGY

The study on comparative economics of organic and inorganic farming in Amravati district was carried out. For the present study, Chandur Railway and Tiwasa Tehsil of Amravati district were selected. From these Tahsils, ten villages were randomly selected on the basis of availability of the organic and inorganic cultivators of cotton, pigeonpea, mung and wheat. From each village five farmers,

those applying organic farming practices and five farmers, those applying inorganic farming practices 50 farmers of each group and in all total 100 farmers were selected randomly.

The primary data pertaining to the year 2009-10 from the selected farmers were collected by personal interview in pre-tested questionnaire. The data pertaining to family information, land use pattern, cropping pattern, livestock, implements and machinery etc. were also collected from home, field and their working places. Collected data were analyzed by using appropriate statistical tools like averages, percentages, ratios, etc. in order to accomplish the objectives of the present study. The comparison was made between organic (OFS) and inorganic (IFS) farming.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The ill effects of the conventional farming systems are felt in India in terms of the unsustainability of agricultural production, environmental degradation, health and sanitation problems etc. Organic agriculture is gaining momentum as an alternative to the modern system.

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The calculation of per acre cost of cultivation as well as working out the gross returns, the cost incurred was considered and also returns got by the farmers from cotton,

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