

Sustainability of environment through biodynamic agriculture

■ V. PARAMESH, M. LAKSHMIPATHY AND P. ARUN KUMAR

Article Chronicle :

Received :

13.04.2013;

Accepted :

03.05.2015

Key Words :

Environment,
Biodynamic
agriculture

ABSTRACT : Biodynamic agriculture is a method of organic farming that emphasizes the holistic development and interrelationships of the soil, plants and animals as a self-sustaining system. One of the first modern ecological farming systems, it emphasizes a sustainable approach to agriculture. Biodynamics has much in common with other organic approaches. It emphasizes the use of manures and composts and excludes the use of artificial chemicals on soil and plants. Methods unique to the biodynamic approach include its treatment of animals, crops and soil as a single ecosystem. Biodynamic agriculture uses various herbal and mineral additives for compost additives and field sprays. Biodynamic agriculture has been characterized as pseudoscience. Its founder, Rudolf Steiner, and its developers characterize it as “spiritual science” and they advocate taking a holistic view rather than a reductionist view. Recently, there has been an increasing interest in biodynamic farming practices and systems because they show potential for mitigating some detrimental effects of chemical-dependent conventional agriculture. The studies have shown that the biodynamic farming systems generally have better soil quality, lower or equal crop yields, and equal or higher net returns per hectare than their conventional counterparts. However, more research is needed to determine whether the preparations affect soil physical, chemical, and biological properties and crop growth and, if so, their mode of action.

HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE : Paramesh, V., Lakshmiathy, M. and Kumar, P. Arun (2015). Sustainability of environment through biodynamic agriculture. *Asian J. Environ. Sci.*, **10**(1): 50-56.

Author for correspondence :

V. PARAMESH

Division of Agronomy,
Indian Agricultural
Research Institute,
PUSA, NEW DELHI
(INDIA)

See end of the article for
Coopted authors'