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Research Paper

Comparative study of organic and inorganic paddy with reference to yield, market price and returns

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ABSTRACT : Organic farming is practiced in India since thousands of years. The great Indian civilization thrived on organic farming and was one of the most prosperous countries in the world, till the British ruled it. In traditional India, the entire agriculture was practiced using organic techniques, where the fertilizers, pesticides etc. were obtained from plant and animal products. In this regard, the present study is an attempt of comparative study of organic paddy and inorganic paddy with that of yields, market prices and returns in Tungabhadra Command Area of Karnataka state. The study revealed that, in the study area farmers used the different types of inputs in the cultivation of paddy both organically and inorganically. About eight types of inputs were used in the cultivation of organic paddy whereas for inorganic only seven inputs were used. In the organic farms the less quantity of seeds were used than inorganic farms and cost involved in usage of seeds on organic farms was less than that of inorganic farms. Organic farmers used less quantity of machine labour, more quantity of human and bullock labour than that of inorganic farmers in various operations. Cost of paddy cultivation on organic farms per acre was less when compared to that on inorganic farms per acre. Average yield of paddy was low on organic farms as compared to inorganic farms. The average market price of organic paddy, main product per quintal and by product per tone was found to be higher than that of inorganic paddy, main product per quintal and by product per tone.

KEY WORDS : Organic farming, TCA, Inputs

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INTRODUCTION

Organic farming is practiced in India since thousands of years. The great Indian civilization thrived on organic farming and was one of the most prosperous countries in the world, till the British ruled it. In traditional India, the entire agriculture was practiced using organic techniques, where the fertilizers, pesticides etc. were obtained from plant and animal products. Organic farming was the backbone of the Indian economy and cow was worshipped (and till today done so) as a Godess. Green revolution (GR) technologies supported by policies, and fuelled by agrochemicals, machinery and irrigation, are known to have enhanced agricultural production and productivity. These technologies greatly helped to address the food security of India. Farmers using these technologies have to depend upon purchased inputs. The small farmers, who are short of cash, are therefore found to lag behind large farmers in adoption of technologies. Use of expensive energy sources like fossil fuels create environmental and health problems. It is perhaps owing to these issues and their negative impacts, that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has noted that agriculture as practiced today (conventional agriculture, modern agriculture or GR agriculture) accounts for about one fifth of the anthropogenic greenhouse effect, producing about