

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

Constraints for organic farming practices in Bikaner district of Rajasthan

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20.01.2020;

Revised :

26.03.2020;

Accepted :

04.04.2020

SUMMARY : The present study was undertaken for studying constraints of organic farming practices in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. This district was selected purposively as it has large area under rainfed farming and mostly fertilizers and pesticides are not being used in this area. For the study 30 farmers practicing organic farming were selected. The results revealed that the important constraint faced by the farmers of study area were non-availability of sufficient organic manure, low productivity of organic farming, lack of selling outlets, marketing of organic farming produce is the main problem, certification facility is not available of organic farming, unawareness of organic farming, price of the organic products is the high and cost of certification organic farming is high. The study of constraints revealed that about 81.5 per cent farmers of the study area faced the problem about no availability of sufficient organic manure. The problem faced by the farmer is related to difficulty in adoptions of organic farming was worked out about 61.9 per cent. About 81.03 per cent farmers reported the problem of selling.

KEY WORDS :

Organic farming,
Rainfed farming,
Organic manures,
Marketing,
Constraints, Cost of
certification

How to cite this article : Saran, Dropati and Sharma, Madhu (2020). Constraints for organic farming practices in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. *Agric. Update*, 15(1 and 2): 21-23; DOI : 10.15740/HAS/AU/15.1and2/21-23. Copyright@ 2020: Hind Agri-Horticultural Society.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

India is the world's largest producer of milk, second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugar, fruits and vegetables and the third largest producer of cotton, just only to mention a few. The direct contribution of the agricultural sector to national economy is reflected by its share in total GDP, its foreign exchange earnings and its role in supplying savings and labour to other sectors. The negative consequences of higher use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are reduction in crop productivity and deterioration

in the quality of natural resources.

Organic farming is a method of farming that works at grass-roots level, preserving the reproductive and regenerative capacity of the soil, good plant nutrition and sound soil management, produces nutritious food, rich in vitality and disease resistance. Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity.

The global organic market continues to grow worldwide and has reached 97 billion

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US dollars. The market research company Ecovia Intelligence estimated that the global market for organic food reached 97 billion US dollars in 2017 (approx. 90 billion Euros). The United States is the leading market with 40 billion Euros, followed by Germany (10 billion Euros), France (7.9 billion Euros) and China (7.6 billion Euros). In 2017, many major markets continued to show double-digit growth rates, and the French organic market grew by 18 per cent. The Swiss spent the most on organic food (288 Euros per capita in 2017). Denmark had the highest organic market share (13.3 % of the total food market) Willer and Lernoud (2019).

Almost three million producers worldwide: In 2017, 2.9 million organic producers were reported, which was 5 per cent more than in 2016. India continues to be the country with the highest number of producers (835,200), followed by Uganda (210,352) and Mexico (210,000) Willer and Lernoud (2019).

A total of 69.8 million hectares were organically managed at the end of 2017, representing a growth of 20 percent or 11.7 million hectares over 2016, the largest growth ever recorded. Australia has the largest organic agricultural area (35.6 million hectares), followed by Argentina (3.4 million hectares) and China (3 million hectares). Due to the large area increase in Australia, half of the global organic agricultural land is now in Oceania (35.9 million hectares). Europe has the second largest area (21%; 14.6 million hectares), followed by Latin America (11.5%; 8 million hectares). The organic area increased in all continents.

Globally, 1.4 per cent of the farmland is organic. However, many countries have far higher shares. The countries with the largest organic share of their total farmland are Liechtenstein (37.9%), Samoa (37.6%) and Austria (24%). In fourteen countries, 10 per cent or more of all agricultural land is organic (*www.organicworld.net*).

India is bestowed with lot of potential to produce all varieties of organic products due to its various agro-climatic regions. In several parts of the country, the inherited tradition of organic farming is an added advantage which resulted in making the country to stand number one in terms of number of organic farm producers and eight in terms of percentage of the of area under organic farming practice to its total area under farming. India produced around 3,96,997 MT of certified organic products, which include all varieties of food products namely basmati rice, cereals, pulses, oil seeds, tea, coffee,

spices, fruits, herbal medicines, honey, processed food and their value added products Chettri (2015). The production is not only limited to the edible sector, but also to that of organic cotton fibre, garments, cosmetics, functional food products, body care products etc.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

Socio-economics condition of selected area:

Bikaner district was selected purposively as it has large area under rainfed farming and mostly fertilizers and pesticides are not being used in this area. Looking to the virginity of land government is also taking initiatives to bring much area under organic farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in this region.

Selection of Panchayat samities:

This scheme was started mainly in Nokha tehsil of Bikaner district in which two Panchayat samities viz., Nokha and Panchu were having maximum number of farmers adopting organic farming, therefore, these two Panchayat samities were selected for selecting villages.

Selection of villages:

A list of all the villages falling under the selected Tehsil was prepared and two villages having more potential for organic farming (both in Kharif and Rabi) were selected. The selected villages were Jasrasar and Jangloo.

Selection of farmers:

A list of all the farmers practicing organic farming was prepared and categorized into standard size groups viz., small (< 2 ha), medium (2- 4 ha) and large (> 4 ha) land.

To identify the various constraints in organic farming in the study area, first of all the various constraints were identified from review of literature. Then the information about the selected constraints was collected from farmers on nominal scale of Yes/No response. The tabular and percentage method was used for analysis of the data.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The study of constraints (Table 1) revealed that about 81.5 per cent farmers of the study area faced the problem about no availability of sufficient organic manure. About 81.03 per cent farmers reported the problem of

Table 1: Constraints perceived by farmers in adoption of organic farming

Sr. No.	Particulars	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
1.	No availability of sufficient organic manure	80.60	81.50	82.40	81.5
2.	Low productivity of organic farming	80.15	75.62	73.12	76.29
3.	Problem in selling the produce	72.20	81.6	89.3	81.03
4.	Unavailability of processors for organic produce	67.2	62.5	57.8	62.5
5.	Certification facility is not available for organic farming	85.10	81.25	75.30	80.55
6.	Unawareness of organic farming	70.50	65.20	61.90	65.86
7.	Price of the inputs for organic production is high	72.20	80.90	80.73	77.94
8.	Cost of certification of organic farming is high	30.15	28.10	25.30	27.85

selling and 62 per cent producers found difficulty in finding the processors for organic produce. Certifications facility was another major problem and about 80.55 per cent farmers above facing such problem. About 65.86 per cent farmers were not much familiar about the advantage of organic farming. Higher marketing price of inputs for organic production was also major problems and about 77.94 per cent farmers faced their problem. Some of the farmers (about 27.85%) reported that cost of certification of organic product was higher.

The study of constraints faced by the farmers in use and adoption of organic farming revealed that the important constraint faced by the farmers of study area were non availability of sufficient organic manures, difficult adopted to organic farming, low productivity of organic farming, lack of organic sale units, marketing of organic farming produce is the main problem, certification facility is not available of organic farming, unawareness of organic farming, price of the organic products is the high and cost of certification organic farming is high.

The major problem faced by the farmer is related to difficulty in adoptions of organic farming was worked out about 61.9 per cent. About 81.03 per cent farmers reported the problem of selling. This scenario appears poor compared to many other countries. Farmers apprehension towards of in India is rooted in non-availability of sufficient organic supplements, bio

fertilizers and local market for organic produce and poor access to guidelines, certification and input costs .Capital driven regulation by contracting firms further discourage small farm holders. An integrated effort is needed from government and non-government agencies to encourage farmers to adopt of as a solution to climate change, health and sustainability issue (Pandey and Singh, 2012).

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