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Organic Farming Revolution: An Analysis Of Its Monetary Benefits And Effects On Kottayam Town

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Abstract

The present study deals with the impact of organic farming in the household sector. Organic agriculture has grownup out of the acutely aware efforts by impressed individuals to form the most effective potential relationship between the planet and men. A major challenge these days is definitely its entry into the policy making platform, its entry into anonymous global market and the transformation of organic products into commodities. During the last 20 years there has additionally been a big sensitization of the worldwide community towards environmental preservation and reassuring of food quality. Organic farming has the potential to supply edges in terms of environmental protection, conservation of non-renewable resources and improved food quality. It is an effective strategy to promote sustainable agriculture in India.

Organic farming is outlined as production of crop, animal and alternative merchandise while not using artificial chemical fertilizers and pesticides and growth-enhancing steroids or alternative chemicals. Organic farming has the potential to supply advantages in terms of environmental protection conservation of non-renewable resources and improved food quality. The principal goal of organic production is to develop enterprises that area unit property and harmonious with the setting. Reasons for adopting organic farming include advantages in sustainability, openness, self-sufficiency, health, food security and food safety. Organic farming is an effective strategy to promote sustainable agriculture in India. A sustainable organic farming can contribute to a broader development of agriculture productivity, food security, generation of rural employment and poverty reduction. In Kerala, agri-food systems are moving towards autonomy and self-independence. The organic agriculture policy has inspired a lot of individuals to gear up organic farming on an adequate scale. Ardent promoters of organic farming consider that it can meet both these demands and became the means for complete development of rural areas. After a century, development of organic agriculture is currently being embraced by many and promise flourish commercially. While thinking from earlier days to current scenario, the modern organic movement is radically different from its original

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form. It currently has sustainable environment as its core, in addition to healthy soil, healthy food and healthy individuals.

Organic farming promotes sustainable agriculture A good agriculture sector strategy will contribute to a broader development of agricultural productivity, food security, generation of rural employment and impoverishment reduction. So it has great importance in today. Increasing awareness towards health and environmental issues associated with the intensive use of chemical input has led to organic farming. It promotes the conservation of natural resources base and improves productivity in agriculture. The objectives of the study are mainly: To know about the general consensus of farmers towards organic cultivation, to promote more usage of natural pesticides, to ensure the right sol cultivation at the right time, to keep and build good soil structure and fertility and to increase genetic diversity.

As a matter of fact a number of studies have been conducted on organic farming some of the important studies are brought here. Save and Sanghavi (1991) square measure of the read that environmental prices and returns need to be internalized and organic farming can sway be a far better alternative to the conventional one in long run. Gunjal (1991) stressed that organic farming promised a better and balanced environment, better food and much better living standard to masses in India. It also promises a long-term agriculture because of its low cost. Karupanaraj (2009) is a farmer in a small village and has been farming organically for the past 40 years. He uses FYM, vermin compost crop residues and various leaf extracts for crop production and protection. National post[1] (2012) reported that organic farming seeks to limit the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. The analysis found that organic yields square measure the maximum amount as 34% lower for a few crops than those from comparable typical farming practices.

Antony Samy[2] V (2009) is farming organically for the past 19 years in his 150 acre farm. In 1991, he turned to organic strategies of farming. His first organic crop was paddy and later be began to cultivate other crops like sugarcane, fruits, and vegetables along with lemon and amla trees and vegetables using organic practices. Erik Van Der Wcrf (1990) has made a comparative study of ecological farming with conventional farming in South India and observed that one of the most important characteristics in which natural ecosystems differed from conventional agriculture is the continuous presence of vegetative cover on the land.

Data for the study was collected from each primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected through questionnaire and interaction with the consumers and shop owners. Secondary data were collected from researches, newspapers, journals and internet. For the sake of convenience the study area was confined to Kottayam municipality.

[1] "Organic farming : Need for more land is bad for earth", Study National Post, 26th April 2012
[2] Antony Samy is a farmer who practices organic farming in Tamil Nadu district.

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ORGANIC FARMING IN KOTTAYAM DISTRICT

Organic farming could be a phrase coined early within the twenty century in reaction to speedily dynamic farming practices to explain what alternative species use, and sued, to farm without synthetic chemicals. Organic farming continues to be developed by varied organic agriculture organizations these days. It depends on fertilizers of organic origin like compost manure, green manure, and bone meals and places emphasis on techniques such crop rotation and companion planting. Biological pest control, mixed cropping and festering of insect predators are encouraged. In general, organic standards are designed to allow the use of naturally occurring substances while strictly prohibiting synthetic substances. For instance, naturally occurring pesticides such as pyrethrin and rotenone and pesticides are generally prohibited. Synthetic substances that are allowed include, for example, copper sulphate, elemental sulfur and ivermedin. Genetically modified organisms, nanomaterial's, human sewage sludge, plant growth regulators hormones and antibiotic use in livestock husbandry are prohibited. Reasons for adopting of organic farming embrace advantage in property, openness, self-sufficiency autonomy/independence, health, food security and food safety. Organic agricultural strategies square measure internationally regulated and lawfully enforced by several nations, based on large standards set by the international umbrella organization established in 1972.

Organic agriculture may be outlined as; "An integrated farming system that strives for prosperity, the enhancement of soil fertility and biological diversity whilst with rare exceptions, prohibiting synthetic pesticides, antibiotics, synthetic fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, and growth hormones." Since 1990 the market for organic food and other products has grown rapidly, reaching $63 billion worldwide in 2012. This demand has driven an identical increase in organically managed farmland that grew from 2001 to 2011 at a change of integrity rate of 89% per annum.

EMERGING TRENDS IN ORGANIC FARMING IN KERALA

The unplanned industrialization, urbanization, and pollution have made every vegetable, food grains, fruits, milk, etc. highly adulterated. As a result, the cases of fatal diseases have shot up. Cancer is affecting people like a wildfire. Man has suddenly woken up to his erroneous and faulty living style. All sudden, people all across the world have begun demanding organic food stuff. This has given rise to organic farming. Organic farming is a new method for production of crops with producing the least amount of waste products which are harmful to the environment. One way to try and do organic farming is by employing a heap of manures like garbage, herbicomposts, and various other organic products which has zero amount of pollution and zero waste technology that square measure significantly useful for the setting. Doctors and scientists have stressed the need of consuming food grains, vegetables, milk products and fruits that are free of toxic substances. More and more people are growing organic food grains, vegetables, milk products, fruits etc. Organic farming suggests that manufacturing food grains, vegetables, fruits, etc in natural ways. It means not using any chemical fertilizers, insecticides, and pesticides, etc

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The Government of India is promoting organic farming through numerous schemes. Organic cultivators avail benefits from government schemes for organic farming. Under National project in organic farming (NPOF) schemes, assistance up to 25% and 33% of financial outlay up to a ceiling of Rs.40 lakhs and Rs.60 lakhs respectively is provided as back ended subsidy via NABARD for institution of bio-pesticides/bio-fertilizers production units and agro waste compost production units. Under NPOF, a total of 56 nos. biofertilizers production units and 17 nos. of fruit/vegetables waste compost units have been established in the country. Government has been advocating group action use of chemical fertilizers and organic manures as well as biofertilizers for increasing production of major crops.

Besides, National Farming Mission (NHM) and Mission for North East States (HMNEH), financial assistance is provided for setting up vermi-compost production units @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary, for adoption of organic farming @ Rs.10,000/- per hectare for maximum area of 4 hectare per beneficiary and for organic farming certification @ Rs.5.00 lakh for a group of farmers covering a locality of fifty hectares. Assistance for promotion of organic farming on completely different parts is additionally out there underneath Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with the approval of State Level enabling Committee.

Under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) on Pulses, including Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P), assistance for popularizing Rhizobium culture/Phosphate solubilizing bacteria is provided to the farmers under cluster demonstrations. Central Government has notified biofertilizers like bacteria genus, Azotobacter, Azospirillum, Acetobacter, PSB, KMB, Zinc solubilizing bacteria under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO). Similarly, initiative for organic cultivation has done through Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP) Programme, Phosphate solubilising Bacteria/Azotobacter culture is provided to the farmers as part of technology demonstration. Further, National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSH&F) has provided monetary help of Rs five hundred per area unit to market use of organic manure.

All India Network Project on Soil Biodiversity-Biofertilizers is enforced by Indian Council of Agricultural analysis (ICAR) for R & D on biofertilizers. The ICAR has developed technologies to organize numerous varieties of organic manures like phosphocompost, vermin compost, municipal solid waste compost etc. Improved and economical strains of biofertilizers specific to different crops and soil varieties are being developed. Network Project on biofertilizers. The monetary help is provided on the idea of project proposals received from States as well as geographic area. Indian Council of Agricultural analysis (ICAR) underneath Network Project on Organic Farming, with lead centre at Project Directorate for Farming Systems Research Modipuram is developing package of practices of different crops and cropping system under organic farming across agro-ecological regions of the country.

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Organic farming faces diverse problems like lack of awareness. The most important constraint felt in the progress of organic farming is the inadequate Govt. Policy making level to require a firm call to market organic agriculture. Unless such a transparent and unambiguous direction is offered in terms of each monetary and technical supports, from the centre to panchayat levels, mere regulation making will amount to nothing. Many farmers in the country have only vague ideas about organic farming & its advantage as against the conventional farming methods. Further, inadequate supporting infrastructure creates a mess. There are only four agencies for accreditation and their expertise is limited to fruits and vegetables, tea, coffee & spices. The certifying agencies are inadequate.

Alongside, there is a high input costs. The small and marginal farmers in India have been practicing a sort of organic farming in the form of traditional farming system. Now the prices of organic inputs area unit high than those of industrially created chemical fertilizers & pesticides as well as alternative inputs utilized in the traditional farming system. Putting forward, yield is very low. In several cases the farmers expertise some loss in yields on discarding artificial inputs on conversion of their farming technique from standard to organic. There are output marketing problems. It is found that before the start of the cultivation of organic crops their marketability & that too at a premium over the traditional manufacture has got to be assured. Shortage of biomass is an issue. Many experts & well informed farmers are not sure that all the nutrients with the required quantities can be made available by the organic materials. Even if these problems can be solved they are of the view that the available organic matter is not simply enough to meet the requirement. Marketing problems of organic inputs further aggravates the problem. Bio-fertilizers & bio-pesticides are getting to become popular in the country. There is a lack of marketing distribution network for there because the retails are not interested to deal in these products, as demand is low.

The findings from the study are quite interesting. Organic farming is considered more labor intensive. So it provides employment opportunities for people. The people in Kottayam district give importance for organic product as they undergo several health problems. Marketing of organic products in Kottayam district shows an increasing trend. Majority people prefer organic product without considering product price. 65% of organic farming is done by household basis. Organic farming gives financial benefits and happiness to the people. Generally, organic products are available in market with high price, so everyone cannot afford it. One of the main challenges that the people face is the limited knowledge about organic products. Effective media of communication is required through online. To promote sustainable foods productions, the government should limit the consumption of meat products. We should purchase local organic agriculture products, particularly fruits, vegetables & crops. This will encourage domestic marketing. Research on agriculture, climate and nutrition should be taken into consideration. More subsidy and research funding should be provided by government for organic & eco-friendly agriculture. Agriculture in the city should be encouraged and promoted. It is suggested that meat consumption should have meat-free diets at least once a week. Ecologically and economically sustainable organic farming is the pre-requisite for enabling wider adoptability, secured livelihoods and ensuring affordability at the consumers end. India has a rich

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history of organic farming and the increasing domestic market of organic food can provide the necessary drive to the organic movement.

Our study here mainly focused on the importance of organic farming and to achieve sustainability, food security and food safety. The study was based on the different places Kottayam district. Today most of the people do organic farming in their own homes. In our study we found that the people give first priority to quality and second priority to price. It is found that organic products are considered to be more important because it provide nutrition and ensure healthy diet. People get awareness about organic farming from different sources like magazines, online sources & newspapers etc. and in retail market organic product got high demand. The organic farming survey confirms that with the increase in global health consciousness, organic food is set to knock every door and make its way in healthy kitchens all around the world.

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