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Opinion of farmer's regarding adoption of organic farming

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Abstract

The study on Opinion of farmer's regarding adoption of organic farming in Kanpur Nagar were carried out in the year 2018-19 by following the random sampling, 120 respondents were selected from the two blocks. Out of total respondents 33.3 per cent respondents educated up to intermediate level. 79.2 per cent respondents were belong to Hindu religion. After studying According to farmers opinion regarding adoption of organic farming 75.0 percent of farmer respondents believe and trust an organic product that carries an organic label or organic certificate with mean score 1.75. From the study it was conducted that most of farmers know about organic farming but they thought that some loss in yields on discarding synthetic inputs on conversion of their farming method from conventional to organic. The seed, fertilizer and pesticide industry as also the importers of these inputs to the area have a stake in the conventional farming.

Keywords: Conventional, farmer, farming, opinion, organic

Introduction

Organic Farming defined as a production system which largely avoids/exclude the use of synthetic inorganic fertilizer, pesticides, growth regulators etc. It largely depends on crop rotation, crop residues, animal manures, green manures of farm organic wastes to maintain soil productivity and to supply plant nutrients and biological and mechanical means to control insects, pathogens and weeds. Organic farming promotes the use of crop rotations and cover crops, and encourages balanced host/predator relationships. Organic residues and nutrients produced on the farm are recycled back to the soil. Cover crops and composted manure are used to maintain soil organic matter and fertility. Preventative insect and disease control methods are practiced, including crop rotation, improved genetics and resistant varieties. Integrated pest and weed management, and soil conservation systems are valuable tools on an organic farm. The organic standards generally prohibit products of genetic engineering and animal cloning, synthetic pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, synthetic drugs, synthetic food processing aids and ingredients, and ionizing radiation.

The term "organic farming" was coined by Walter James (Lord Northbourne), a student of Biodynamic Agriculture, in his book *Look to the Land* (written in 1939, published 1940). In this text, James described a holistic, ecologically balanced approach to farming, "the farm as organism," basing this on Steiner's agricultural principles and methods. One year previously to his book's publication, James had hosted the first Biodynamic Agriculture conference in England. Organic farming presents many challenges. Some crops are more challenging than others to grow organically; however, nearly every commodity can be produced organically. Organic farming systems do not use toxic agrochemical inputs (pesticides, fungicides, herbicides and fertilizer).

Research Methodology

The study entitled, "Awareness of farmer's regarding organic farming" was conducted in District Kanpur Nagar during 2018-19 and two blocks selected in this study. From each selected block, a list prepared. From each block, three villages were selected for study purpose and 20 respondents selected from each village. These areas shall present different segment of organic farming Dependent and independent variables namely age, religion, caste, marital status, occupation, type of family, size of family, land holding etc. were used the collected data were subjected to statistical analysis for which statistical tools, per cent, weighted mean, arithmetic mean, rank and standard deviation.

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Table 1: Distribution of farmers as per education

Education	Frequency	Per cent
Illiterate	8	6.7
Up to primary	28	23.3
High School	27	22.5
Intermediate	40	33.3
Graduate and above	17	14.2
Total	120	100.0

Table: 1 reveals that distribution of farmer respondents according to education level, maximum 33.3% of respondents belong to Intermediate followed by 23.3% of farmers belong to up to primary level in the study area. 22.5% of farmer belong to high school and 14.2% of farmers belong to graduate and above whereas only 6.7% farmers belong to illiterate in the study area Sarsaul and Bhitargao. Education

Table 3: Opinion of farmer's regarding adoption of Organic farming

S. No.	Statements	Yes	No	Mean Score	Rank
1.	Would you trust an organic product that carries an organic label or organic certificate	75.0	25.0	1.75	I
2.	The cost of organic farming products are higher than synthetic/inorganic farming products	71.7	28.3	1.72	III
3.	Do you not apply organic pesticides along with farming practices	73.3	26.7	1.73	II

Table: 3 clarify the distribution of farmers respondents according to their opinion regarding adoption of organic farming 75.0 percent of farmer respondents believe and trust an organic product that carries an organic label or organic certificate with mean score 1.75, ranked I whereas 73.3 percent of respondents do not apply organic pesticides along with farming products with mean score 1.73, ranked II. Only 73.3 percent respondents trust on organic farming products are higher than synthetic/inorganic farming product with mean score 1.72, ranked III.

Conclusion

Agriculture is the base of economic policies and is the ultimate driver of national economic growth and poverty alleviation in many developing countries including India. Many countries have been able to convert significant per cent of their cultivated areas into organic farming. Indian agriculture evolved principally as an ecologically sustainable approach using natural inputs for enhancing crop yield.

It has vast opportunity for rural employment and livelihood security. Organic agriculture is gaining momentum as an alternative method to the modern system. Overall, the study found that organic farming is more profitable for farmers, in terms of costs and returns, than chemical farming. However, the variation in profits is smaller for small farmers of redgram and large farmers of groundnut. This improved profitability of organic farmers in the present study is despite the fact that these farmers (N=120) are not reaping a premium price for their produce since they are not certified organic and their produce is sold undifferentiated in the market, that is, it is sold without labelling and at „normal“ prices. Organic farmers believed that organic farming improves soil fertility and their profits in the long run. India is endowed with various types of naturally viable organic form of nutrients across different regions of the country which will be helpful in organic cultivation of crops.

Recommendations & Suggestion

1. The government needs to do a thorough and in-depth evaluation of the general picture of the organic sector policies, programs and plans, to understand how they affect the current organic sector.

and knowledge plays an important role in awareness regarding organic farming to develop their economic and social status.

Table 2: Distribution of farmer according to religion

Religion	Frequency	Per cent
Hindu	95	79.2
Muslim	25	20.8
Total	120	100.0

Table: 2 reveals the data distribution of farmer according to religion maximum 79.2% farmers belong to Hindu religion and 20.8% farmers belong to Muslim religion. Overall respondents of Hindu religion were in maximum number, combining all (two) study area, and Muslim were in minimum number.

- The objective should be clear before the action is taken and all the stakeholders should be involved in the policy development and development of the plans and programmes.
- General and organic agriculture should support each other to the greatest extent so that they promote the effective policy coherence, especially if organic as to be promoted as mainstreams and announcement of premium prices for organic staple food crops in advance of crop season.

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