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**Seema Devi**  
Research Scholar, Deptt. of  
Extension, Education &  
Communication Management,  
Uttar Pradesh, India

**Dr. Mithilesh Verma**  
Asst. Professor, C.S.A  
University, Kanpur, Uttar  
Pradesh, India

**Dr. Sangeeta Gupta**  
Asst. Professor, C.S.A  
University, Kanpur, Uttar  
Pradesh, India

**ILA Tiwari**  
Research Scholar, Deptt. of  
Extension, Education &  
Communication Management,  
Uttar Pradesh, India

**Correspondence**  
**Seema Devi**  
Research Scholar, Deptt. of  
Extension, Education &  
Communication Management,  
Uttar Pradesh, India

## Awareness, perception and attitude of farmer's regarding organic farming

**Seema Devi, Dr. Mithilesh Verma, Dr. Sangeeta Gupta and ILA Tiwari**

### Abstract

The study on Awareness of farmer's regarding 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 41.7 per cent respondents belonged to 50 years and above of age group. 62.5 per cent respondents were engaged only agriculture (farming). After studying the awareness of respondents, it was found that organic farming provides quality food for families with 1.78 mean score value. 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:** awareness, conventional, farmer, farming, organic

### Introduction

Farming is the science and art of cultivating plants and livestock. Farming is growing crops or keeping animals by people for food and raw materials. Farming is a part of agriculture. Organic Farming is an alternative agricultural system which originated early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in reaction to rapidly changing farming practices. Organic farming continues to be developed by various organic agriculture organizations today. It relief on fertilizers of organic origin such as compost manure, green manure, and bone meal and places emphasis on techniques such as crop rotation and companion planting. Organic Farming based on work within a closed system and draw upon local resources, to maintain long term productivity of soil, to avoid pollution problems due to use of agro-chemicals and to minimize the use of fossil energy in agriculture. Organic production is a holistic system designed to optimize the productivity and fitness of diverse communities within the agro-ecosystem, including soil organisms, plants, livestock and people. The principal goal of organic production is to develop enterprises that are sustainable and harmonious with the environment 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. 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. Prohibited products and practices must not be used on certified organic farms for at least three years prior to harvest of the certified organic products. Livestock must be raised organically and fed 100 per cent organic feed ingredients.

### 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.

## Results

**Table 1:** Distribution of farmers according to age group

Age group	Frequency	Per cent	Mean $\pm$ SD
Up to 30 years	7	5.8	28 $\pm$ 1
30 to 40 years	29	24.2	36 $\pm$ 2
40 to 50 years	28	23.3	44 $\pm$ 3
50 years and above	50	41.7	59 $\pm$ 5
Total	120	100.0	48 $\pm$ 10

Table 1 The perusal of table reveals that the distribution of farmers according to age group, 41.7% of respondents were belong to age 50 years and above with mean age 59 years and standard deviation 5 years followed by 24.2% of farmers belong to 30 to 40 years age with mean age 36 years and S.D. 2 years in the study area. 23.3% of farmers belong to 40 to 50 years age group with mean age 44 years and S.D. 3 years

**Table 2:** Distribution of farmers according to occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Per cent
Service	13	10.8
Business	32	26.7
Farming	75	62.5
Total	120	100.0

Table 2 reveals that the distribution of farmers respondent according to occupation 62.5% farmers were depend only farming whereas 26.7% farmers belong to business and only 10.8% farmers depend in service also in the study area Kanpur Nagar. Farmers who are depend only farming more aware regarding organic farming.

**Table 3:** Awareness, perception and attitude regarding organic farming

S. No.	Statements	Yes	No	Mean Score	Rank
1.	Do you think that organic farming provides enough produce in quantity	70.8	29.2	1.71	III
2.	Do you think organic farming provides quality food for family	78.3	21.7	1.78	I
3.	Does inputs used in chemical farming viz insecticides, pesticides, weedicides, chemical fertilizers are harmful for human as well as soil health	75.0	25.0	1.75	II
4.	Does organic farming beneficial for farmers in respects of increasing farm income	68.3	31.7	1.68	IV
5.	Sufficient information of organic farming can influence your farming intension	75.0	25.0	1.75	II
6.	Does organic farming better in comparison to traditional chemical farming	70.8	29.2	1.71	III
7.	Do you get benefits, reading about organic farming in books, newspaper, news article and other advertisement	66.7	33.3	1.67	V
8.	Does organic farming inputs viz FYM, compost, nonchemical insecticide, pesticides are yearly available in markets	63.3	36.7	1.63	VI
9.	Does organic products (seed, fruit, vegetable) can achieve better price in market	61.7	38.3	1.62	VII
10.	Do you like to get information about organic information	56.7	43.3	1.57	VIII

Table 3 reveals that distribution of respondents according to awareness, perception and attitude regarding organic farming 78.3 per cent of respondents had given view that organic farming provide quality food for family with mean score 1.78 and ranked I, whereas 75.0 per cent of respondent had given view that inputs used in chemical farming viz. insecticides, pesticides, weedicides, chemical fertilizers are harmful for human as well as soil health with mean score 1.75 and ranked II and 75.0 percent of respondent had given view that sufficient information of organic farming can influence forming intention with mean score 1.75 and ranked II. 70.8 per cent respondent think that organic farming produce enough product in quantity with mean score 1.71 and ranked III whereas 70.8 per cent of respondent believes that organic farming is better in comparison to traditional chemical farming with 1.71 and ranked III. 68.3 per cent of respondents had given their view that organic farming is beneficial for farmers in respect of increasing farm income with mean score 1.68 and ranked IV. 66.7 per cent of respondent had given their view that they get benefits by reading about organic farming in books, newspaper, news article and other advertisement with mean score 1.67 and ranked V. 63.3 per cent of respondent had given their view that organic farming inputs viz FYM, compost, nonchemical insecticide, pesticide are yearly available in market with mean score 1.63 and ranked VI. 61.7 per cent respondent believe that organic products (seed, fruits, vegetable) can achieve better price in market with mean score 1.62 and ranked VII. Only 56.7 per

cent respondent like to get information about organic farming with mean score 1.57 and ranked VIII.

## Conclusion

Organic produce can usually qualify for higher prices than non-organic products. These premiums vary with the crop and may depend on whether you are dealing with a processor, wholesaler, directly with the consumer. Prices and premiums are negotiated between buyer and seller and will fluctuate with local and global supply and demand. Organic farming presents many challenges. Some crops are more challenging than others to grow organically; however, nearly every commodity can be produced organically. Thus, a natural balance needs to be maintained at all cost for existence of life and property. The obvious choice for that would be more relevant in the present era, when these agrochemicals which are produced from fossil fuel and are not renewable and are diminishing in availability. It may also cost heavily on our foreign exchange in future.

## Recommendation and suggestions

There are many preventive measure of awareness of organic farming, out of which some personal recommendations are given below:

- Promote practices that support small and mid-sized farms, rather than large confinement operations.
- Encourage a healthy discussion of conservation issues in area and how they can be addressed in a positive manner through transition to organic farming.

- More subsidy and research funding should be provided for organic and ecofriendly agriculture.

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