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ORGANIC FARMING AND ITS FUTURE PROSPECTS

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Abstract :

Modern organic farming was developed as a result of environmental degradation due to excessive use of chemical pests and fertilizers Green hevalution technologies have improved agricultural phoduction and productivity. Organic farming maintains biodiversity and controls, weeds insects & peststhrough natural approachas. Minimisation of soil asesion water efficiency and nuthients balance are the major adveintages of over traditional method of farming Govt of Indian has also launched NPOP programe in zool to promote and enceusage of organic farming wing organics wastes

Keywords : Organic, Farming, Biodiversity, NPOP.

NEED OF ORGANIC FARMING

Organic farming is an agricultural system that uses ecologically based pest controls and biological fertilizers derived largely from animal and plant wastes and nitrogen-fixing cover crops. Modern organic farming was developed as a response to the environmental harm caused by the use of chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers in conventional agriculture, and it has numerous ecological benefits.It uses fewer pesticides, reduces soil erosion, decreases nitrate leaching into groundwater and surface water, and recycles animal wastes back into the farm. These benefits are counterbalanced by higher food costs for consumers and generally lower yields.The excessive use of synthetic chemicals, which vastly contaminate the environment, as well as the mechanical soil disturbance and irrigation, have led to a generation of resistant insects, fungi, weeds, etc., accumulation of chemicals in crops and soil, pollution of water and air and consequently contribute to some extent to the greenhouse effect and global warming1.

BENEFITS OF ORGANIC FARMING

Organic farming has minimal deleterious effect on the natural habitat so as to

maintain biodiversity and control weeds, insects and other pests through natural approaches2. Meta-analysis of data spanning a period of 30 years from regions that practice organic farming showed increased species richness by about 30%3.Positive effects of conservation agriculture on the agroecosystems have been widely reported: e.g. prevention or minimization of soil erosion and soil organic carbon loss, improvement of water use efficiency, nutrient cycling and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions4,5.

PROSPECTS OF ORGANIC FARMING IN INDIA

The 10th Five-Year Plan encouraged the promotionof organic farming using organic wastes, and integrated pest management (IPM) and integrated nutrient management (INM) practices (GoI, 2001).The Government of India has also launched the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) in the year 2001.Organic farming has assumed immensesignificance in the dryland areas also. Soil and climaticconditions in India's drylands make them particularlywell suited to organic agriculture. These marginal lands,with their marginal soils do not respond well to intensivefarming practices. These are actually better suited tolow-input farming systems that make ample use of thebiodiversity (Sharma, 2000; Pionetti and Reddy, 2002).

Organic farming focuses onmaintaining and improving soil health, its avoidance ofpollutants, and its reliance on local inputs and labour,can materially advance the economic and ecologicalhealth of the drylands, as well as people who live there.Several alternatives for supply of organic soil nutrients like vermicomposts and biofertilizers exist. Technologies have been developedto produce large quantities of these nutrients. Crop specific biofertilizers for cereals, millets, pulses and oil seeds are alsoavailable. Vermi- composting and bio-fertilizer manufacturing canbe undertaken to increase the supply of organic manure to meetthe demand.

Prospects for organic farming in India can be gauged from theearlier mentioned experiences of soyabeanand organic cotton cultivation.Therefore, it is necessary for organic farmers and the organic sector to promote a bold spirit of inclusivity in innovation and a culture of intensive learning and communication regarding new solutions and innovative practices.Therefore, it is necessary for organic farmers and the organic sector to promote a bold spirit of inclusivity in innovation and a culture of intensive learning and communication regarding new solutions and innovative practices.

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