

Benefits of Organic Farming in Agriculture

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INTRODUCTION

The concepts of organic agriculture were developed in the early 1900s by Sir Albert Howard, F.H. King, Rudolf Steiner, and others who believed that the use of animal manures (often made into compost), cover crops, crop rotation, and biologically based pest controls resulted in a better farming system. Howard, having worked in India as an agricultural researcher, gained much inspiration from the traditional and sustainable farming practices he encountered there and advocated for their adoption in the West.

In the European Union, organic farming has experienced a dynamic development in the 1990s. The organic farming area has nearly tripled from 1993 to 1999 (Foster and Lampkin 2000). This is partly debited to an increased consideration of organic farming in policy measures, either by policy measures targeting organic farming directly or policies with a potential application to organic farming.

Organic farming, 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.

Advantages of Organic Farming

Economical: In organic farming, no expensive fertilizers, pesticides, or HYV seeds are required for the plantation of crops. Therefore, there is no extra expense.

Good return on Investment: With the usage of cheaper and local inputs, a farmer can make a good return on investment.

High demand: There is a huge demand for organic products in India and across the globe, which generates more income through export.

Nutritional: As compared to chemical and fertilizer utilized products, organic products are more nutritional, tasty, and good for health.

Environment-friendly: The farming of organic products is free of chemicals and fertilizers, so it does not harm the environment.

Disadvantages of Organic Farming

Incompetent: The major issue of organic farming is the lack of inadequate infrastructure and marketing of the product.

Less production: The products obtained through organic farming are less in the initial years as compared to that in chemical products. So, farmers find it difficult to accommodate large-scale production.

Shorter shelf life: Organic products have more flaws and a shorter shelf life than that of chemical products.

Limited production: Off-season crops are limited and have fewer options in organic farming.

Types of Organic Farming

Organic farming is divided into two types, namely:

Integrated organic farming

Pure organic farming

Pure organic farming means avoiding all unnatural chemicals. In this process of farming, all the fertilizers and pesticides are obtained from natural sources such as bone meal or blood meal.

Integrated organic farming includes the integration of pest management and nutrients

management to achieve ecological requirements and demands.

Meaning of organic farming

System of farming that uses organic inputs like green manures, cow dung, etc., for cultivation.

Need of organic farming

- Excessive use of chemical fertilizers reduces the fertility of soil.
- Excessive use of chemicals has led to soil, water, and air pollution.
- To conserve ecosystem.
- To promote sustainable development.
- Inexpensive farming.
- Increased demand of organic products due to safety of food.

Benefits of organic farming

- Environment-friendly.
- Promotes sustainable development.
- Healthy and tasty food.
- Inexpensive process.
- It uses organic inputs.
- Generates income.
- Generates income through exports.
- Source of employment.
- Organic farming is more labour intensive. Hence, it generates more employment.