

Empowering Farmers in Jammu through Organic Farming

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Abstract

The organic farming in real sense envisages a comprehensive management approach to improve the health of underlying productivity of the soil. India is bestowed with lot of potential to produce all varieties of organic products due to its various agro-climatic regions. The study is work out in collaboration with Sarveshwar Group, Jammu and is related to organic farming for product paddy. A simple random technique was adopted for the selection of samples. 59 respondents from village Agar chak, 19 from Baspur and 4 from Rangpur Nai basti of R. S. Pura were selected purposively so as to constitute a total sample of 82 farmers. It has found from the study that 63.4 per cent of the respondents are willing to spare their land for two years to get involved in the organic farming and rest are not interested which shows there is a scope for organic farming in the study area. Also 59.5 per cent of the respondents are ready to go for the training on organic farming whereas 17.1 per cent are of the opinion that they will think before opting for the training. This shows farmers are willing to go for the organic farming and moreover if the compensation and the training programs are provided timely that will help a lot as per the opinion of the respondents.

Keywords

Organic Farming; Paddy; Frequency.

Introduction

It is a known fact that agriculture is the backbone of the Indian Economy. Agriculture in India has a long history, dating back to 10,000 years. India faced

a severe food shortage when it was unshackled from the clutches of British rule and became independent in 1947 (Economic Survey, 2011). As a result, the government gave primary importance to agricultural sector in the first five year plan. Even then the situation continued till the 1960's. Then the Green revolution aimed at attaining self-sufficiency in terms of food grains, empowering the farmers and modernizing agriculture by using modern techniques and tools to maximize the output of food. In spite of the advantages accrued to India, in terms of achieving self sufficiency in food production and increasing livelihood choices to the rural poor, Green Revolution made the Indian farmers and that world over to depend mostly on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which degraded soil fertility, and environment. There felt the need to boost organic farming through which product has been produced using certain special production methods.

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), a non-governmental organization internationally networking and promoting organic agriculture, has established guidelines that have been widely adopted for organic production and processing.

According to United Nations Development Programme (1992) 'Practicing organic agriculture involves managing the agro-ecosystem as an autonomous system, based on the primary production capacity of the soil under local climatic conditions. Agro-ecosystem management implies treating the system, on any scale, as a living organism supporting its own vital potential for biomass and animal

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production, coupled with biological mechanisms for mineral balancing, soil improvement and pest control. Farmers, their families and rural communities, are an integral part of this agro-ecosystem.

The organic farming in real sense envisages a comprehensive management approach to improve the health of underlying productivity of the soil. Earlier, it was mentioned that organic agriculture is a production system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetic compounded fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators and livestock feed additives. It relies on crop rotation, crop residues, animal manure, legumes, green manure, off-farming organic waste and aspects of biological pest control. Organic farming works in harmony with nature rather than against it. This involves using techniques to achieve good crop yield without harming the natural environment or the people who live and work in it. The method and materials viz., recycle and composted crop wastes and animal manures, the right soil cultivation at the right time, crop rotation, green manures and legumes and mulching on the soil surface are used in organic farming (Lampkin, 1994)

Status of Organic Farming in India

Organic farming system in India is not new and is being followed from ancient time. It is a method of farming system which primarily aimed at cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way, as to keep the soil alive and in good health by use of organic wastes (crop, animal and farm wastes, aquatic wastes) and other biological materials along with beneficial microbes (biofertilizers) to release nutrients to crops for increased sustainable production in an eco friendly pollution free environment (agritech.tnau.ac.in).

The Government of India has implemented the National Program for Organic Production (NPOP). The National Program involves an accreditation Schemes for certification bodies, norms for organic production, promotion of organic farming etc. The NPOP standards for production and accreditation system have been recognized by the European Commission and Switzerland as equivalent to their countries standards. Similarly, the Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) has recognized NPOP's conformity assessment procedures of accreditation as equivalent to theirs. With these recognitions, all the Indian organic products duly certified by the accredited certification bodies of India are accepted by the importing countries. India produced around 3,96,997 MT of certified organic products, which include all varieties of food products namely Basmati rice, Cereals, Pulses, Oil Seeds, Tea, Coffee, Spices, Fruits, Herbal medicines, Honey, Processed food and

their value added products. The production is not only limited to the edible sector, but also to that of organic cotton fiber, garments, cosmetics, functional food products, body care products, etc. (Sudheer, 2011).

About the Study

The study on Empowering Small Farmers in Jammu through Organic Farming is related to organic farming for product paddy. It was found that farmers who get involved with these organizations do perceive that their food security is improved through conservation and the revival of traditional crops. Additionally their economic situation is strengthened with less expenditure on inputs such as seed, chemical pesticides, or mineral fertilizers. Finally, it is argued, training provided by these organizations prepares farmers, many of whom become more self-reliant and confident individuals, to stand up for their democratic rights in the midst of the formidable power of globalized corporate agriculture. The study was conducted in collaboration with Sarveshwar Group who is dedicated to an exciting mission of introducing affordable quality organic and healthy food for the general public by making it conveniently available.

Research Methodology

Research methodology is a methodology for collecting all sorts of information and data pertaining to the subject. The objective is to examine all the issues involved and conduct situation analysis. The methodology includes the overall research design, sampling procedure and fieldwork done and finally the analysis procedure. The methodology used in the study consistent of sample survey using both primary and secondary data. The primary data has been collected with the help of questionnaire as well as personal observation whereas book, magazine and journals have been referred for secondary data. The questionnaire has been drafted and presented by researcher himself.

Sample Size

A simple random technique was adopted for the selection of samples. 59 respondents from village Agar Chak, 19 from Baspur and 4 from Rangpur Nai basti of R. S. Pura were selected purposively so as to constitute a total sample of 82 farmers.

Data Analysis

After data analysis, farmer's views, ideas and opinions related to organic farming were found and from this, Sarveshwar Group will come to know about

the farmer's requirements. As per questionnaire and survey, different responses from different people were taken. According to their responses, the findings were

analyzed to draw certain remarks. The analysis has been done with the help of pie charts, tables and descriptive statistics.

Results

Table 1: Age wise distribution of respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<25	2	2.4	2.4	2.4
25-35	21	25.6	25.6	28.0
35-45	13	15.9	15.9	43.9
45-55	20	24.4	24.4	68.3
>55	26	31.7	31.7	100.0
Total	82	100.0	100.0	

Table 2: Persons willing to spare land for two years for organic farming

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YES	52	63.4	63.4	63.4
NO	30	36.6	36.6	100.0
Total	82	100.0	100.0	

Table 3: Farmers involved in the organic farming

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
-	-	-	-	-
82	100.0	100.0	100.0	
82	100.0	100.0		

Table 4: Farmers happy with current project

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	82	100.0	100.0	100.0
No	-	-	-	

Table 5: Land available with the farmers (in acre)

Area (acre)	Number of farmers	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	1	1.2	1.2	1.2
2	4	4.9	4.9	6.1
3	9	11.0	11.0	17.1
4	5	6.1	6.1	23.2
5	6	7.3	7.3	30.5
6	15	18.3	18.3	48.8
7	6	7.3	7.3	56.1
8	8	9.8	9.8	65.9
9	6	7.3	7.3	73.2
10	6	7.3	7.3	80.5
11	2	2.4	2.4	82.9
12	5	6.1	6.1	89.0
13	3	3.7	3.7	92.7
14	3	3.7	3.7	96.3
18	1	1.2	1.2	97.6
20	1	1.2	1.2	98.8
33	1	1.2	1.2	100.0
Total	82	100.0	100.0	

Age wise distribution of respondents is depicted in Table 1. It has been analyzed from the table that 31.7 per cent of the respondent falls in the category of age group greater than 55. In other terms more than 50 per cent of the respondents are above the age of 45.

The numbers of persons willing to spare their land for two years for organic farming are depicted in table 2. The statistics from the table shows that 63.4 per cent of the respondents are willing to spare their land for two years to get involved in the organic farming and rest are not interested which shows there is a scope for organic farming in the study area.

The number of farmers involved in the organic farming is shown in the table 3. It has been clearly mentioned in the table that farmers are not presently involved in the organic farming, thus creating the scope for the organic farming in the particular region.

Table 4 depicts frequency of farmers happy with the project. It is clear from the table that all the 82 number of farmers are happy with the project on organic farming for the product paddy which is supported by Sarveshwar Group.

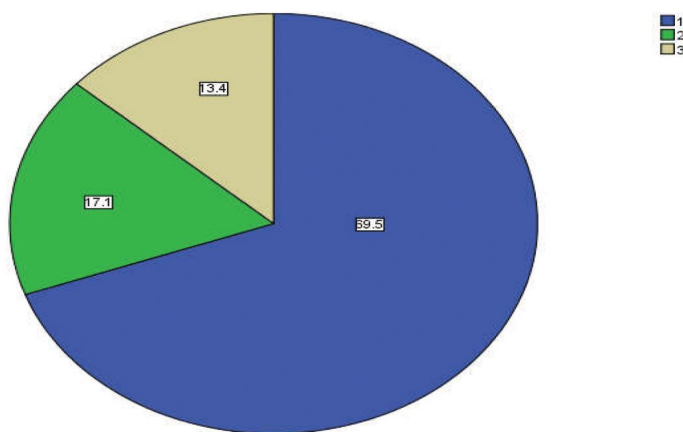
Table 5 represents land available with the farmers. The interesting figures that arise from the land

holding statics depicts that 18.3 per cent of the respondents are having 6 acres of the land followed by 11.0 per cent (3 acres), 9.8 per cent (8 acres). The figures also reveal that the only one respondent is having more than 18 acres of land.

Farmers View

Farmer's view on whether to go for training on organic farming is shown in figure 1. The figure depicts that 59.5 per cent of the respondents are ready to go for the training whereas 17.1 per cent are of the opinion that they will think before opting for the training. 13.4 per cent of the respondents say 'No' for the training.

Price per quintal offered by Sarveshwar and other group is shown in table 6. The table revealed that Sarveshwar offers handsome price as compare to SOPL as far as intermediate and least categories are concerned. It is found to be Rs. 5400 per quintal and Rs. 5200 per quintal, respectively offered by Sarveshwar as compared to Rs. 5000 per quintal and Rs. 4000 per quintal offered by SOPL. In case of best category SOPL is providing slightly higher price as compared to Sarveshwar which is found to be Rs. 6000 per quintal.



Note: 1. Will go 2. Will think 3. No

Fig. 1: Farmer's View for Training

Table 6: Price/Quintal offered by Sarveshwar & Others (Rs/qttl)

Categories	Price/Quintal (Rs) provided by current Project	Price/Quintal provided by SOPL
Best	5800	6000
Intermediate	5400	5000
Least	5200	4000

Conclusion

The current study concludes that farmers are currently satisfied with the present project.

- ▶ Farmers are willing to go for the organic farming if the compensation and the training programs are provided timely.
- ▶ A farmers are also willing to join the new project if the transportation facility and the quality of

seeds is been delivered by the organization (Sarveshwar) especially for conventional farming.

- ▶ The study further concludes that there are no farmers in the study area involved in the organic farming.

Suggestion

- ▶ Provide training for organic farming
- ▶ Make farmers aware about organic farming
- ▶ Make farmers know the importance and the role of organic farming.
- ▶ There should be clear follow up with the farmers.
- ▶ The farmers should be provided the facility of transportation.

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