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**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES**

## **Organic farming in India:-**

The advent of green revolution in India in the early 1960s led to an overwhelming increase in the agricultural production in the country, due to use of large scale of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. This however proved to be harmful in the long run, the need to rejuvenate the yielding farming scenario became the need of the era and the alternative was to go organic. India has 1.5 million hectares of organic farmland in 2016, later added 0.3 million hectares in the same year. According to World of Organic Agriculture Report 2018, India produces 30% of total organic production but accounts only 2.59% of total cultivation area.

## **Importance:-**

Organic farming is getting importance when people are polluting the soil and environment with harmful chemicals and pesticides. Organic farming provides the option of enriching the soil with organic compost and preventing soil from chemicals. Soil is origin for many food crops, hence the food we get from organic soils are good for health as well. Organic farming helps in sustainable rural environment, sound health of soil and creating ecological balance etc. In Indian context this kind of agricultural practice can be traced back to decades.

The organic agriculture has a greater scope of minimizing all forms of pollutants and brings sustainability. This practice gives a very low adverse effect in the economy; it also helps in conservation of biodiversity. The exposure of toxic material to human, animals and the environment can be reduced.

## **MARKET OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA:-**

Indian organic mangoes have high demand in Netherland, UK and Germany, so export will bring good amount of income in India.

There are three major pineapple importing countries i.e US, EU, Japan. Therefore India also has the opportunity to export pineapple

India can aim at the organic banana market giving attention to the geographically closer Japanese market and the EU

The Indian market of organic vegetable can be expanded in the EU, Australia, and Singapore EU, UK and Netherlands has an increasing demand for organic grapes as there is an increase in the consumption of organic wine, thereby giving India the opportunity of targeting these countries for exporting grapes.

European Commission has granted “equivalence” status to Indian organic certifying agencies. Indian organic tea producers can expand their markets in Europe as it is one of the leading tea consuming regions.

Organic agriculture producers have the ability to assemble community resources for the development of the locality, including livelier assist in local government and the creation of new community economic development structures and new businesses.

In the year 2017-18 India exported a total volume of 4.58 lakh MT. The total earning from organic product was around Rs. 3453.48 crore (515.44 million US Dollar). The countries that import organic food from India are Canada, Japan, USA, Switzerland, Vietnam, European Union, Australia, South Korea, New Zealand, Israel etc. According to export value realization Oilseeds has highest realizing amount (47.6%) followed by Cereals and millets (10.4%), Plantation products i.e., Tea and Coffee (8.96%), Dry fruits (8.88%), Spices and condiments (7.76%) and others

#### **Advantages of Organic Farming in Indian Rural Economy**

- ✓ Organic fertilizers are completely safe and do not produce harmful chemical compounds
- ✓ The consumption of chemical fertilizers in comparison to organic fertilizers is always more, especially in unused cultivable lands.
- ✓ Moreover, chemical fertilizer needs huge quantities of water to activate its molecules whereas; organic fertilizers do not need such conditions.
- ✓ Further, chemical fertilizers almost always have some harmful effects either on the farm produce or on the environment
- ✓ Furthermore, it can also produce harmful chemical compound in combination with chemical pesticides, used to ward-off harmful pests.

#### **Socio-economic opportunity in organic farming**

- Contributes to preservation of biodiversity.
- Produces healthy food.
- Ensures jobs in agriculture, food processing and marketing
- Improves health of soil
- Low water consumption
- Low input cost
- High produce cost (Improve economic status)
- High demand due to social awareness
- Huge export potential
- Promotion of sustainable agriculture for small farmers.