

IMPACT OF ORGANIC FARMING IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ANAKKARA GRAMPANCHAYATH OF PALAKKAD DISTRICT IN KERALA

Author's Name: Dr. Sudheesh .B

Affiliation: Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

E-Mail: sudheeshbd@gmail.com

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Abstract

Organic farming played an important role in the rural development of the country. Organic farming is a traditional form of farming, majority left this farming system with the arrival of modern farming which uses new technology, high amount of chemicals, pesticides, and fertilizers in the cultivation. Increasing amount of diseases including cancer, heart diseases, and other health issues, people again move back to organic farming. Now majority of the population engaged in organic farming it is good for health, nature, and future generation as well as profitable. Agriculture is the dominant economic activity and supports nearly 76% of the rural population of the district. Palakkad is the one of the most agrarian districts in Kerala. Palakkad is particularly famous for its paddy cultivation. Palakkad also occupies the first position in the state for the production of ground nut, tamarind, pulses, black pepper. The district is also famous for its organic farming; this study explains the impact of organic farming, types of organic farming, Problems of organic farming and sources of financial assistance for organic Farming of Palakkad district in Kerala.

Keywords: *Organic Farming, Types of organic farming, Financial Assistance, Problem of organic Farming, Role of Krishibhavan.*

INTRODUCTION

Organic farming is a production system which largely excludes or avoids the use of fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators, etc... and relies mainly on organic sources to maintain soil health, supply plant nutrients to minimize insects, weeds and other pests. It was felt that organic farming may solve all these problems and has been considered as one of the best options for protecting sustaining soil health, and is gaining lot of importance in present day agriculture. The term "Organic Farming" was coined by Lord North Bourne in 1940. Sir Albert Howard is often regarded to as the father of modern organic agriculture. Organic farming is a modern way of agricultural production and the history of organic agriculture clearly shows that organic farming is focused on the future. Organic farming has the potential to change the face of India today. Currently, we have 1.2 million hectares of land under organic production, which comprises only 0.7% of total area under cultivation. This farming system is 35% more profitable than traditional farming.

IMPORTANCE OF ORGANIC FARMING

Organic farming helps to prevent environmental degradation and can be used to regenerate degraded areas. Organic manures produce an ideal condition in the soil for high yields and good quality of crops. It also provides healthier food for people. Farmers can reduce their production costs because they do not need to buy expensive chemicals and fertilizers in the long term,

organic farms save energy and protect the environment.

There are many methods used in organic farming includes manure from animals and compost are used to enrich the soil. These fertilizers also help to conserve the soil, not destroy it after a few years. Organic farmers also use crop rotation to preserve the good qualities of soils and avoid monoculture. Organic farming creates new living areas for wasps and bugs beetles and flies by giving them water and food.

TYPES OF ORGANIC FARMING

One of the important aim of organic farming is to produce food of high quality and to consider the wider social and ecological impact of the organic production and processing system. There are two types of organic farming

PURE ORGANIC FARMING

Pure organic farming involves the use of organic manures and bio pesticides with complete avoidance of inorganic chemicals and pesticides. It is the pure form of organic farming is done with complete avoidance of any kind of inorganic chemicals as fertilizers as well as chemical pesticides.

INTEGRATED ORGANIC FARMING

Integrated organic farming involves integrated nutrients management and integrated pest management. It is the type of farming where you grow crops from natural resources. Further, having the complete nutritive value and also manage to prevent the crop or plants from the pests.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Balachandran. V(2004) has pointed out that deals with the organic farming in Kerala. It gives more importance to the vision of social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable development. The study also try to explain the organic farming and social justice. Negative impacts of the modern agriculture on the economy, environment, culture and social life of the people. The transformation of agriculture to agri-business is evident in Kerala and it's disadvantages are main highlights of the study.

Lukas Kilcher (2007) has revealed that organic agriculture is sustainable and diverse, conserve resources, produce more, better quality products, increase Self Confidence, and mobilize new partnership. The study also states that the organic agriculture can contribute to meaningful socio- economic and ecologically sustainable development, especially in poorer countries. This is due on the one hand to the application of organic principles, which means efficient management of Local Resources example local seeds varieties, manure, etc.... it observed that organic agriculture reduces the risk of yield failure, stabilizes returns and improves the quality of life of small farmer's families. Its aims at examining the contribution of organic agriculture to food security, poverty alleviation, and environmental conservation.

Panneerselvam. P (2010) has observed that compared farm production, crop yield, input costs, and income in organic and conventional farming systems in three states of India: Uttrakhand, Madya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu the results showed that organic farming reduced

the input cost without affecting the net margin in all three states. Total food production was found to be comparable for the two systems in two of three states. The number of agro-ecological methods and percentage of farmers practicing different agro-ecological methods were higher under organic systems than conventional systems. The study shows that organic farmers has the potential to improve food security of small farmers by reducing indebtedness due to the lower cost of production without affecting total farm production.

Bhavan Babu R.S & Geethu Krishna (2018) has revealed that organic farming is now gaining momentum across the world. They also explain the involvement of chemicals and other fertilizers in agricultural products including hormones and antibiotics leave residue in food that may cause cancer and genetic damage, it also leads to adverse effect on nature's balance especially the climatic conditions.

Abisha KA & Dr. P. Kannan (2018) has stated that the adoption of organic production and processing is highly determined by market demand. Therefore this is reflected in consumer's awareness and satisfaction towards organic food products. This research result indicated that the main reason for purchasing organic food products is an expectation of a healthier and environment friendly means of production. It prevents excess use harmful ingredients and thereby ensures health. The study attempted to gain knowledge about consumer awareness towards organic food consumption and to see whether there is any potential this might have for changing their behavior.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Organic farming is a system of production that is capable of avoiding or majorly block the use of pesticide, synthetically compounded fertilizes, live stock feed additives and growth regulators .It on green manures, rest weeds, Crop rotations, off-farm organic wastes, aspects of biological pest control insects, animal manures, etc...methods of organic farming are used widely in developing countries, majorly because of economics and a fewer resources of chemicals. The Current Problems faced in organic farming includes, Organic food is more expensive because famers do not get as much out of their land as conventional farmers do. Production costs are higher because farmers need more workers for the production. Marketing and distribution is not efficient because organic food is produced in smaller amounts, organic farming cannot produce enough food that the world's population needs to survive. This could lead to starvation in countries that produce enough food today. Food illnesses may happen, expensive, Output Marketing Problems, Inadequate Supporting Infrastructure, High input costs, Marketing problems, Low yield, Lack of subsidies are major Challenges.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyze the socio-economic and environmental importance of organic farming in Kerala.
2. To examine the impact of organic farming upon the farmers in terms of households income, expenditure, assets and profit.
3. To analyze the problems faced by farmers in organic farming.
4. To assess the depth of participation of farmers in organic farming in Kerala.
5. To identify whether organic farming is profitable or not profitable

METHODOLOGY

The location of the study concentrated on Anakkara Gramapanchayath of Palakkad District in Kerala. In the study primary data were collected by direct interview and questionnaire and secondary data were collected from Agriculture Department, Krishi Bhavan, and Farmers Clubs. The convenient random sampling method is used for the selecting the sample. 52 Respondents were selected as sample for the study that is 10 percent of the total population. The collected data were analyzed with sample statistics like average, percentage.

RESULTS and Discussion

Table.1 Age Wise Classification of the Respondents

SI.No	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1	30 -40	7	13.5
2	40 - 50	19	36.5
3	50 - 60	11	21.2
4	60 - 70	15	28.8
	Total	52	100.00

Source: primary Data

The age wise classification of the respondents are shown in the table.1, about 36.5 % of the population belongs to the age group 40-50, 28.8% of the population belongs to the age group of 60-70, and 21.2% of the population belongs to 50-60.

Table.2 Distribution of income of the Respondent

SI.No	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1	Below 20000	4	7.7
2	20000-30000	8	15.4
3	30000-40000	9	17.3
4	40000-50000	6	11.5
5	Above 50000	25	48.1
	Total	52	100.00

Source: primary Data

The above table.2, shows the Yearly income of the respondents 7.7% of the respondents are below 50000, 17.3% of the respondents are between the range of 30000-40000, 48.1% of the respondents are above 50000.

Table.3 Distribution of Expenditure of the Respondents

SI.No	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1	Below 10000	11	21.2
2	10000-20000	13	25.0
3	20000-30000	19	36.5
4	30000-40000	7	13.5
5	Above 40000	2	3.8
	Total	52	100.00

Source: primary Data

The table 3, shows the monthly expenditure of the respondents here, 21.2% of the population monthly expenditure is below 10000, 36.5% of the Respondents expenditure is 20000-30000, 4.8 % experience expenditure above 40000.

Table.4 : Cultivation in own land of the respondents

SI.No	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	39	75.0
2	No	13	25.0
	Total	52	100.00

Source: primary Data

The given table 4. Cultivation in own land of the respondents shows that 75.0% of the respondents cultivate in own land and 25.0% cultivate in others land.

Table. 5 Acres of Land under Cultivation of Organic farming

SI.No	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1	Below 1 acre	14	26.9
2	1-2	25	48.1
3	2-3	8	15.4
4	Above 3 acre	5	9.6
	Total	52	100.00

Source: primary Data

The table 5. Acres of land under cultivation shows that 48.1% of the respondents cultivate in between 1-2 Acres, 9.6% cultivate above 3 Acres, and 26.9% cultivate below 1 Acre.

Table.6 Reasons for choosing Organic Farming

SI.No	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1	Inheritance	12	23.1
2	For a healthy generation	10	19.2
3	Profitable	12	23.1
4	For the nature	3	5.8
5	For healthy food	15	28.8
	Total	52	100.0

Source: primary Data

The given table.6 shows the reason for choosing organic farming by the respondents shows that 28.8% choose organic farming for healthy food, 23.1% for profit and 5.8% for the nature.

Table.7 Cultivated Product of the Respondents

SI.No	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1	Paddy	19	36.5
2	Vegetables	20	38.5
3	Coconut	1	1.9
4	Banana	12	23.1
	Total	52	100.0

Source: Primary Data

The above given table 7. Cultivated products of the respondents show that 36.5% engaged paddy cultivation, 1.9% engaged in coconut, and 38.5% engaged in vegetable cultivation.

Table.8 Problems of organic Farming

SI.No	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1	Health issues	17	32.7
2	Late seeds availability	13	25.0
3	Lack of government supports	10	19.2
4	Lack of financial assistance	9	17.3
5	Subsidy issues	3	5.8

	Total	52	100.0
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Source: Primary Data

The table 8. Problems of the respondents shows that 32.7 % respondents have health issues, 5.8% of the respondents have the subsidy issues, 19.23% faced lack of government issues.

Table.9 Source of Financial Assistance of the Respondents

Si.no	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1	Banks	33	63.5
2	Krishibhavan	12	23.1
3	Cooperative society	3	5.8
4	Other institution	4	7.7
	Total	52	100.0

Source: Primary Data

The table 9, the source of financial assistance of the respondents shows that 63.5% of the Respondents greatest source financial assistance is banks, 5.8% depends on cooperative society and 23.1 % depends on krishibhavan.

Table.10 Types of Assistance from Krishibhavan to the Respondents

SI.No	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1	No assistance	6	11.5
2	Seeds	9	17.3
3	Subsidy	23	44.2
4	Cash	11	21.2
5	Scheme	3	5.8
	Total	52	100.0

Source: Primary Data

In the given table.10 shows the types of assistance from krishibhavan to respondents shows that 44.2% of the respondents get subsidy, 21.2% get cash assistance, 5.8% get assistance through schemes, and 11.5% not get any assistance.

Table.11 Organic Farming System is Profitable for the Respondents

SI.No	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	48	92.3
2	No	4	7.7
	Total	52	100.0

Source: Primary Data

The above table 9. Organic farming is profitable for the Respondents shows that 92.3% of the respondents it is profitable and 7.7% it is unprofitable.

CONCLUSION

In rural area majority of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood, and the income earned from this farming is enough to cover their expenditure. The farmers faced many problems in different period from agriculture but they not left this farming for their livelihood and for the environment. The study observed that the Krishibhavan provides more assistance to the farmers including subsidy, lab assistance, and information about new seeds, soil testing, and modern cultivation. The motto of organic farmers is hardworking, dedication, and responsibility. The study revealed that organic farming is impossible for the new generation to come into this field, it is not at all easy to earn profit from this farming we should contribute ourselves for its growth. Organic farming practices reduce pollution in the air, water, soil. It also

helps conserve water, reduce soil erosion, and use less energy. The study revealed that Organic farming is profitable for the Respondents shows that 92.3% of the respondents it is profitable and 7.7% it is unprofitable.

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