C. Sahaya Mary Sophia

Shanlax International Journal of Economics

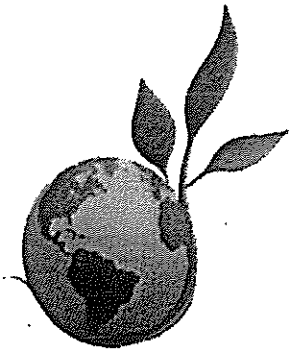
(A PEER-Reviewed-Refereed/Scholarly Quarterly Journal with Impact Factor)

Vol. 5 No. 1 Special Issue 1 February, 2017

Impact Factor: 2.16 ISSN: 2319 - 961X

Agriculture in the New Millennium – Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future

NCANSSF-2017



THE RESEARCH CENTRE OF ECONOMICS

FATIMA COLLEGE (Autonomous)

(College With Potential for Excellence)

(Re –Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC)

Mary Land, Madurai – 625 018. Tamil Nadu, India

CONTENTS

ORGANIC FARMING VERSUS CONVENTIONAL AGRICULTURE

Dr. C. Sahaya Mary Sophia

Assistant Professor, The Research Centre of Economics, Fatima College, Madurai

Email ID: rajisophia@yahoo.com, Mobile Number: 9442268684

Abstract

India is mainly an agrarian country. Agriculture is the most important occupation for most of the Indian families. In India, agriculture contributes about sixteen per cent (16 %) to GDP and ten per cent (10%) of total exports. Over 60% of land area is arable making it the second largest country in terms of total arable land. An agricultural product of significant economic value includes rice, wheat, potato, tomato, onion, mangoes, sugar-cane, beans, cotton, etc. Though, with the growth of other sectors, the overall share of agriculture on GDP of the country has decreased. Still, agriculture continues to play a dominant part in the overall economic scenario of India. Food is essential for life. We depend on agricultural outputs for our food requirements. India produces large quantity of food grains such as millets, cereals, pulses, etc. A major portion of the food-stuffs produced is consumed within the country. As we depend on agriculture for food stuffs, agricultural productivity should be increased through organic farming instead of following conventional method.

In recent years, there is a lot of debate between the proponents of organic farming and a section of the community who questioned the scientific validity and feasibility of organic farming. The most often debated issues on organic agriculture fall under the following six categories: (i) Can organic farming produce enough food for everybody? (ii) Is it possible to meet the nutrient requirements of crops entirely from organic sources? (iii) Are there any significant environmental benefits of organic farming? (iv) Is the food produced by organic farming superior in quality? (v) Is organic agriculture economically feasible? (vi) Is it possible to manage pests and diseases in organic farming?

This paper focuses on increasing the productivity of agriculture through organic farming and ensures that organic farming supports our ecological system far better than conventional method of production

***Key words:** arable land, cereals, pulses, organic farming, environment*

Introduction

India is mainly an agricultural country. Agriculture is the most important occupation for most of the Indian families. In India, agriculture contributes about sixteen per cent (16%) to GDP and ten per cent (10%) of total exports. Over 60% of land area is arable making it the second largest country in terms of total arable land. An agricultural product of significant economic value includes rice, wheat, potato, tomato, onion, mangoes, sugar-cane, beans, cotton, etc. Though, with the growth of other sectors, the overall share of agriculture on GDP of the country has decreased. Still, apiculture continues to play a dominant part in the overall economic scenario of India. Food is essential for life. We depend on agricultural outputs for our food requirements. India produces large quantity of food grains such as millets, cereals, pulses, etc. A major portion of the food-stuffs produced is consumed within the country. This paper focuses on increasing the productivity of agriculture through organic farming and ensure that organic farming supports our ecological system far better than conventional method of production

Organic Farming

It is a method of crop and livestock production that involves much more than choosing not to use pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics and growth hormones and provide attentive care that promotes the health and meets the behavioural needs of livestock. Organic production is a holistic system designed to optimize the productivity and fitness of diverse communities within the agro-ecosystem, including soil organisms, plants, livestock and people.