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PROBLEMS OF PRACTICING ORGANIC FARMING:-A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CUDDALORE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

The principle purpose of this study is to analyze the problem of practicing Organic farming. It is significant to note the problems of cultivation of organic crops encountered. They are high cost of obtaining certificate, the benefit of organic practices is not seen immediately, inadequate subsidies to buy organic inputs, absence of appropriate organic agricultural policy, low level consumer support, improper accounting methods, inability to meet the export demand, knowledge on the application of organic manure is lacking, number of cattle household decreased gradually day by day causing scarcity of farm yard manure, biological pest control is very knowledge intensive, organic input may be difficult to generate on the farm, shortage of bio mass, unorganized market for organically grown products, lack of financial security in protecting organic farming, cost of organic fertilizer is higher than the chemical fertilizer, inadequate agriculture infrastructural facilities, lack of quality standard for bio manure, collection, processing and handling farm wastes are more complicated. People in many different capacities, from farmers to consumers, have shared this vision and contributed to it.

KEYWORD: farmyard, biological pest control,

cattle dung, bio mass, pesticides, subsidies.

INTRODUCTION :

Organic farming excludes the use of synthetic inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides. It protects soil from erosion, nutrient depletion and structural breakdown it offers innovative and economically viable opportunities for growers, laborers, consumers, policymakers and many others in the entire food system. The loss of the crop in any one year could put a farm out of business and seriously disrupt

the stability of a community dependent on that crop. By growing a variety of crops, farmers spread economic risk and are less susceptible to the radical price fluctuations associated with changes in supply and demand. Some of the problems of cultivation of organic crops are farmers' adoption to organic farming without any financial help from government, results in chances of yield loss in initial years of adoption, organic product may not find an early market as most of the vegetables are perishable in



nature, lack of crop insurance, and shifting to pure organic farming is very time consuming and laborious method.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE: Charyulu kumara .D and Subho Biswas (2014)⁴⁰ report that organic farming systems have attracted increasing attention over the last one decade because they are perceived to offer some solutions to the problems currently besetting the agricultural sector. The authors focused mainly on the issues like economics efficiency of organic farming vis-à-vis conventional farming in India. Similarly, four major crops i.e., cotton; sugarcane, paddy and wheat were chosen for comparison. A model based non-parametric Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) was used for analyzing the efficiency of the farming systems. The crop economics results showed a mixed response. Overall, nit is concluded that the unit cost of production is lower in organic farming in case of cotton and sugarcane crops whereas the same is lower in conventional farming for paddy and wheat crops.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM: Organic farming is an important concept in the current scenario. This study aims at analyzing the problems of practicing organic farming system with reference to selected villages in cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. From the point of view of farmers the problems identified. In this study an attempt is made to examine the problems, lack of proper training, difficult to find market demand, competition with mono crop producers etc. Time has come for farmers to bring fundamental change in their strategy to cultivate organic products.

Objectives of the study

- *To identify the farmers problems of practicing organic farming system
- *To exhibit farm wise respondents’ rating on problems of practicing organic farming
- *To suggest policy measures to enhance the rapid adoption of organic farming system in the study area.

Research Methodology: The required data for study is collected by way of primary sources. The study was conducted by administering the questionnaire among the problems of practicing organic farming with the help of 37 factors. The researcher selected 364 Farmers. The interpretations of the data are carried out by applying the statistical tools such as percentages, mean score score and Anova two way model, Factor analysis also included. Conclusion have been drawn from the results of that analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table : 1 Farm Wise Respondents’ Rating on Problems of Practicing Organic Farming

| Variables | Marginal | Small | Medium | Large | Mean |
|---|----------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| Inadequate marketing system of bio fertilizers and bio pesticides | 2.48 | 2.29 | 2.20 | 2.13 | 2.27 |
| The cost of organic fertilizers is higher than the chemical fertilizers | 3.44 | 3.16 | 2.57 | 2.48 | 2.89 |
| Inadequate subsidies to buy organic inputs | 4.08 | 4.08 | 3.88 | 3.74 | 4.00 |
| High cost of obtaining certification | 4.10 | 4.09 | 4.06 | 4.02 | 4.07 |
| Unorganized market for organically grown products | 3.95 | 3.71 | 2.85 | 2.66 | 3.23 |
| The benefit of organic practices is not seen immediately | 4.08 | 4.07 | 3.91 | 3.83 | 4.03 |
| No experimental evidence on the cost benefit ratio of organic farming | 4.09 | 4.08 | 3.72 | 3.68 | 3.95 |
| Preference to consume organic food is yet not established | 2.13 | 2.06 | 1.87 | 1.85 | 1.95 |

| | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Economic loss to transition from conventional agriculture to organic agriculture | 3.26 | 3.11 | 2.53 | 2.36 | 2.83 |
| Lack of proper knowledge about bio fertilizer application | 2.57 | 2.45 | 2.26 | 2.19 | 2.33 |
| Inadequate agricultural infrastructural facilities | 3.03 | 2.90 | 2.36 | 2.20 | 2.62 |
| Lack of financial security in practicing organic farming | 3.51 | 3.22 | 2.63 | 2.53 | 2.95 |
| Inadequate knowledge about export opportunities | 2.22 | 2.15 | 1.96 | 1.94 | 2.03 |
| Low production of organic farming compared to conventional chemical input farming | 3.98 | 3.74 | 2.89 | 2.75 | 3.27 |
| Low level consumer support | 4.10 | 4.09 | 3.71 | 3.56 | 3.87 |
| Inadequate level development of Labelling system to promote organic food | 2.30 | 2.18 | 2.01 | 1.99 | 2.12 |
| knowledge on the application of organic manure is lacking | 4.04 | 4.02 | 3.22 | 3.08 | 3.67 |
| Shortage of biomass | 4.07 | 3.82 | 2.97 | 2.83 | 3.35 |
| Absence of appropriate organic agricultural policy | 4.08 | 4.06 | 3.71 | 3.56 | 3.91 |
| More formalities and time consuming process of getting organic products certification | 3.61 | 3.33 | 2.74 | 2.65 | 3.06 |
| Inability to meet the export demand | 4.05 | 4.03 | 3.36 | 3.25 | 3.75 |
| Lack of quality standard for bio manure | 2.95 | 2.82 | 2.28 | 2.12 | 2.54 |
| Improper accounting methods | 4.07 | 4.04 | 3.59 | 3.27 | 3.83 |
| Government subsidies mostly provided to chemical fertilizer industry | 2.42 | 2.26 | 2.09 | 2.02 | 2.16 |
| Organic inputs may be difficult to generate on the farm | 3.99 | 3.73 | 3.09 | 2.72 | 3.39 |
| Lack of organized extension machinery to disseminate the proved organic farm technologies | 3.21 | 3.06 | 2.48 | 2.31 | 2.78 |
| Shifting to pure organic farming is very time consuming and laborious method | 3.91 | 3.67 | 2.81 | 2.62 | 3.19 |
| Number of cattle household decreased gradually day by day causing scarcity of farmyard manure | 4.06 | 3.99 | 3.17 | 3.04 | 3.61 |
| Reduction of yield in initial few years during the process of conversion from pure chemical farming to organic farming | 2.71 | 2.57 | 2.33 | 2.26 | 2.41 |
| Cattle dung, urine and farm wastes are to handle manually | 3.99 | 3.83 | 3.12 | 2.75 | 3.45 |

| | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Collection, processing and handling farm wastes are more complicated | 2.51 | 2.37 | 2.10 | 2.08 | 2.21 |
| Biological pest control is very knowledge intensive | 4.06 | 3.94 | 3.12 | 2.98 | 3.56 |
| Green leaf manure also has become limit due to over exploitation of herbs and trees | 3.01 | 2.94 | 2.46 | 2.35 | 2.70 |
| Organic product may not find an early market as most of the vegetables are perishable in nature | 3.59 | 3.38 | 2.80 | 2.61 | 3.10 |
| Lack of package of practices including organic farming practices along with cost benefit ratio of different crops | 4.04 | 3.88 | 3.17 | 2.80 | 3.50 |
| Farmers' adoption to organic farming without any financial help from government results in chances of yield loss in initial years of adoption | 2.84 | 2.67 | 2.39 | 2.29 | 2.49 |
| Lack of cop insurance | 3.87 | 3.63 | 2.77 | 2.58 | 3.15 |
| Average | 3.47 | 3.34 | 2.84 | 2.70 | 3.09 |

Source: Computed from the primary data

ANOVA

| <i>Source of Variation</i> | <i>SS</i> | <i>df</i> | <i>MS</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>F crit</i> |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| Variation due to problems of organic farming | 55.1733 | 1 | 1.53259 | 43.4213 | |
| | 15.3341 | 36 | 2 | 4 | 1.52645 |
| Variation due to farm groups | 3.81194 | 5 | 0.76239 | 144.815 | 2.68869 |
| Error | 74.3194 | 3 | 24.7731 | 6 | 1 |
| Total | 1 | 147 | | | |

The medium farm respondents' rank the third position in their overall perceived problems behind the cultivation of organic crops as per their secured mean score of 2.81 on a 5 point rating scale. The large farm respondents come down to the last position in their overall observed problems towards practicing organic farming as per their secured mean score of 2.62 on a 5 point rating scale.

The anova two way model is applied for further discussion. At one point, the computed anova value 43.42 is greater than its tabulated value at 5 per cent level significance. Hence, the variation among the problems behind the adoption of organic farming is statistically identified as significant. In another point, the computed anova value 144.81 is greater than its tabulated value at 5 per cent level significance. Hence, the variation among the farm groups is statistically identified as significant.

It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that the marginal farm respondents rank the first position in their overall observed problems behind the adoption of organic farming, small farm respondents' the second, the medium farm respondents' the third and large farm respondents' the last.

TABLE 2 : TOTAL VARIANCE EXPLAINED

| Component | Initial Eigen values | | | Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings | | | Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings | | |
|-----------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | Total | % Variance | of Cumulative % | Total | % Variance | of Cumulative % | Total | % Variance | of Cumulative % |
| 1 | 16.574 | 46.040 | 46.040 | 16.574 | 46.040 | 46.040 | 7.159 | 19.887 | 19.887 |
| 2 | 4.252 | 11.810 | 57.850 | 4.252 | 11.810 | 57.850 | 7.010 | 19.472 | 39.359 |
| 3 | 1.800 | 5.000 | 62.850 | 1.800 | 5.000 | 62.850 | 4.998 | 13.883 | 53.242 |
| 4 | 1.154 | 3.205 | 66.056 | 1.154 | 3.205 | 66.056 | 4.613 | 12.813 | 66.056 |
| 5 | .968 | 2.689 | 68.745 | | | | | | |
| 6 | .867 | 2.407 | 71.152 | | | | | | |
| 7 | .706 | 1.962 | 73.114 | | | | | | |
| 8 | .680 | 1.890 | 75.004 | | | | | | |
| 9 | .653 | 1.814 | 76.818 | | | | | | |
| 10 | .592 | 1.644 | 78.462 | | | | | | |
| 11 | .553 | 1.536 | 79.998 | | | | | | |
| 12 | .500 | 1.388 | 81.386 | | | | | | |
| 13 | .486 | 1.350 | 82.736 | | | | | | |
| 14 | .445 | 1.237 | 83.973 | | | | | | |
| 15 | .442 | 1.227 | 85.200 | | | | | | |
| 16 | .424 | 1.177 | 86.377 | | | | | | |
| 17 | .384 | 1.067 | 87.444 | | | | | | |
| 18 | .379 | 1.052 | 88.496 | | | | | | |
| 19 | .354 | .982 | 89.478 | | | | | | |
| 20 | .331 | .919 | 90.397 | | | | | | |
| 21 | .322 | .895 | 91.292 | | | | | | |
| 22 | .303 | .840 | 92.133 | | | | | | |
| 23 | .287 | .797 | 92.930 | | | | | | |
| 24 | .264 | .732 | 93.662 | | | | | | |
| 25 | .256 | .710 | 94.372 | | | | | | |
| 26 | .243 | .675 | 95.047 | | | | | | |
| 27 | .233 | .647 | 95.694 | | | | | | |
| 28 | .224 | .624 | 96.318 | | | | | | |
| 29 | .208 | .578 | 96.895 | | | | | | |
| 30 | .192 | .533 | 97.429 | | | | | | |
| 31 | .178 | .495 | 97.924 | | | | | | |
| 32 | .175 | .485 | 98.409 | | | | | | |
| 33 | .158 | .440 | 98.849 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 34 | .152 | .423 | 99.272 | | | | | | |
| 35 | .145 | .404 | 99.676 | | | | | | |
| 36 | .156 | .435 | 99.793 | | | | | | |
| 37 | .117 | .324 | 100.000 | | | | | | |
| Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis | | | | | | | | | |

Total Variance Explained: The above table depicts the total variance explained with rotation. The Eigen values for the factors 1, 2, 3 and 4 are 16.574, 4.252, 1.800 and 1.154 respectively. Percentage of variance after the rotation for the factors 1, 2, 3 and 4 are 19.887, 19.472, 13.883 and 12.813 respectively. Cumulative percentage for the factors 1, 2, 3 and 4 after the rotation are 19.887, 39.359, 53.242 and 66.056 respectively. It indicates that the 4 factors extracted from the total of 37 variables have a cumulative percentage up to 66.056 per cent of the total variance.

SUGGESTIONS

The findings of the present study lead to the following policy suggestions.

- *There is a need to establish separate research centre for organic farming in different parts of the country.
- *The government should support organic farming system in the form of provision of specific subsidy.
- *Liberal credit should be given to the farmers who wish to private organic farming system

Conclusion: In this study the researcher examined the problems of practicing organic farming in cuddalore district. The marginal farm respondents rank the first position in their overall observed problems behind the adoption of organic farming. Large farm respondent’s the last. The findings and suggestions throw much light on the present scenario. In the years to come organic farming will play an important role by the above suggestions given in the study.

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