

## RESEARCH NOTE

## Constraints Faced by Farmers in Adoption of Organic Farming

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### ABSTRACT

*The principles of organic agriculture are guides to tailor organic practices to each individual farming location as organic farming systems fall into similar categories as those of conventional agriculture i.e. mixed, livestock, stockless and horticulture. Farmers' apprehension towards organic farming in India is rooted in non-availability of sufficient organic supplements, bio fertilizers and local market for organic produce and poor access to guidelines, certification and input costs. Capital-driven regulation by contracting firms further discourages small farm holders. An integrated effort is needed from government and nongovernment agencies to encourage farmers to adopt organic farming as a solution to climate change, health and sustainability issue. The study was conducted to find out the major constraints in adoption of organic farming. The study was based on the inferences of 120 sampled participants collected during training programme on organic farming. Based on the mean values, the constraints were ranked and it was observed that 'unorganized organic market for organic growers' was ranked first with the mean score of 2.69 out of maximum possible score of 3. The last constraint for not practicing organic farming was 'organic registration process is costly and complicated' with the mean score of 1.61.*

**Key words:** Organic farming; Constraints; Future strategies;

Organic agriculture is currently practiced in 170 countries in 43.1 million hectares with annual market of US \$ 72 billion. In India too, the cultivated area under certified organic farming has grown almost 17 fold (42,000 ha in 2003-04 to 7.23 lakh ha in 2013-14) in last one decade. The Government of India is also keen to promote organic animal husbandry through focused attention on native breeds and local practices. In XII plan, the GOI has launched *Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana*, under which Rs. 300 Crores (Union Budget 2015-16) have been allocated to promote organic agriculture. While organic agriculture aims to be environmentally sustainable, it has not yet reached its goals, there are issues that still need to be addressed and what are the constraints in adoption of organic farming become an important issue to be explored.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was based on the inferences of 120 sampled participants collected during training

programme on organic farming (60 participants of the training organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jhajjar and other 60 from the training organized by Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in the villages (where organic clusters have been started) of District, Jhajjar, Haryana. Constraints in adoption of organic farming faced by the farmers were identified using focus group interview and a list of constraints were identified. The responses were collected on a three point continuum, such as most important, important and least important and score of 3, 2 and 1 was given respectively. Mean score for each reason was calculated and the reasons were ranked based on the mean score.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the mean values, the constraints were ranked and it was observed that 'unorganized organic market for organic growers' was ranked first with the mean score of 2.69 out of maximum possible score of 3, while other constraints in order of importance were

**Table 1. Constraints faced by farmers in adoption of organic farming**

Constraint	Most Important		Important		Least Important		Mean score	Rank
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Unorganized organic market for organic growers	91	75.83	29	24.17	0	0	2.69	I
Low premium for organic produce	39	32.50	74	61.67	7	5.83	2.46	II
Lack of knowledge about organic farming	40	33.33	61	50.84	19	15.83	2.11	III
No subsidies for organic farming	33	27.50	62	51.67	25	20.83	2.08	IV
Difficult to get organic fertilizers	36	30.00	58	48.33	26	21.67	2.05	V
Large quantity of organic inputs are required	32	26.67	64	53.33	24	20.00	2.02	VI
Difficult to manage insect-pest and diseases	29	24.17	68	56.67	23	19.16	2.00	VII
Time consuming	27	22.50	59	49.17	34	28.33	1.98	VIII
Lack of labour force	24	20.00	63	52.50	33	27.50	1.82	IX
Organic registration process is costly and complicated	19	15.83	54	45.00	47	39.17	1.61	X

'low premium for organic produce' (2.46), 'lack of knowledge about organic farming' (2.11), 'no subsidies for organic farming' (2.08), 'difficult to get organic fertilizers' (2.05), 'large quantity of organic inputs are required' (2.02), 'difficult to manage insect-pest and diseases' (2.0), 'time consuming' (1.98), 'lack of labour force' (1.82) and 'organic registration process is costly and complicated' (1.61), respectively. Therefore, the suitable strategies and action plan should be prepared to combat these constraints so that farmers can be able to adopt organic farming at large scale to sustain their livelihood (Table 1). The first constraint for not adopting the organic farming was 'unorganized organic market for organic growers'. The farmers did not know the place of markets where organic produce were sold. 'Low premium for organic produce' was ranked as second constraint because the farmers believed that if they go for organic farming there would be yield loss and there was no fixed premium for organic produce over inorganic produce. 'Lack of knowledge about organic farming' especially on different sources of nutrients was perceived as third constraint. Farmers perceived 'no subsidies for organic farming' as a fourth constraint. Since most of the farmers' belonged to small and marginal category they expected some financial help from the Government side. 'Difficult to get organic fertilizers' was perceived as fifth constraint as there was shortage of organic manures so farmers' faced the difficulty in getting organic

fertilizers. Farmers perceived 'large quantity of organic inputs are required' as the sixth constraint. Farmers' felt that handling inorganic fertilizers were easy since they were applied in small quantities when compared to organic manures. Farmers perceived 'difficult to manage insect-pest and diseases' as a seventh constraint because they felt that pest and disease management was very difficult through biological methods. 'Time consuming' was the eighth, as they feared that if they go for organic farming they won't be able to devote time to other activities. 'Lack of labour force' was the ninth constraint. Farmers' felt that organic farming will consume more labour force in comparison to inorganic farming. The last constraint was 'organic registration process is costly and complicated' Similar kinds of finding were reported by *Jaganathan et al. (2010)*.

## CONCLUSION

An overview of this study shows that there are a number of constraints impeding Indian farmers, especially small farm holders from adopting of Farmers' apprehension lies in non-availability of sufficient amount of organic supplements, bio-fertilizers and local market for organic produce. Additionally, lack of access to guidelines, certification and input cost coupled with capital-driven regulation by contracting firms strongly discourage small farm holders who constitute over 70% of farming community in India.

## REFERENCES

- Jaganathan, D.; Ram Bahal and Padaria, R. N. (2010). Reasons for practicing and not practicing organic farming. *Indian J. of Ext. Edu.*, **46**(3&4): 1-6.

