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Research Article

Study on the constraints and suggestions for organic paddy farming in Karnataka

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Abstract

The country adopted the Green Revolution model—an input- and chemical-intensive model—in the 1960's to increase food production. This approach succeeded in increasing food production but failed the test of sustainability. Issues such as exploitation and degradation of natural resources of land and water, biodiversity loss, and human- and animal-health concerns are evident now. With advent of increased chemical intensive paddy cultivation there is a need to promote the organic paddy cultivation keeping the above problems in view. This paper focused to compare the profile analysis of both organic and conventional paddy farmers. Ex-post facto research design was adopted for the study with a sample of 120 respondents covering two districts of Karnataka. From the analysis, it was found that major constraints elicited by the organic paddy farmers were unavailability of timely organic inputs, complicated methods of production of organic inputs and lack of quality trainings on the organic paddy farming practices.

INTRODUCTION

Organic farming is not something alien to India. The first scientific approach to organic farming can be quoted back to the vedas of the 'later vedic period' essence of which is to live in partnership with, rather than to exploit nature (Patil and Babalad, 2007). It was organic farming that sustained Indian farmers from the ages. It can be well said that the concept of organic farming is very much native to our land and our farmers by default are organic. Organic farming was just not a method of farming in India – but it used to be a way of life and a tradition which has shaped the thought, the outlook, the culture and economic life of its people for centuries. India ranks eighth in terms of world's organic agricultural land and first in terms of total number of producers as per 2020 data. Total area under organic certification process (registered under National Programme for Organic Production) is 3.67 million Hectare (2019-20). This includes 2.299 million ha cultivable area and another 1.37 million Hectare for wild harvest collection.

At present, Karnataka Stands 5th in the country in terms of total cultivated area (ha) under organic certification (including in conversion) at 93, 963 ha. The state stood 3rd in total certified production (2. 83 lakh tons). This is indicative of immense opportunities available to the state in view of its inherent advantage of climate and diversified production. Important cereal grown under organic are: cereals and millets (non basmati paddy, maize, bajra and ragi).

The FAO defines organic agriculture as 'a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It emphasizes the use of management practices in preference to the use of off-farm inputs, taking into account that regional conditions require locally adapted systems. This is accomplished by using, where possible, agronomic, biological, and mechanical methods, as opposed to using synthetic materials, to fulfil any specific function within the system.

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METHODOLOGY

The state of Karnataka was chosen for the study purposively. The districts (Shimoga and Uttara Kannada) were selected purposively based on highest area under organic paddy cultivation. Two mandals from each district were selected randomly. Two villages from each mandal were selected randomly. From each of the selected village, fifteen respondents were selected using simple random sampling procedure out of which seven from each village were conventional respondents and eight were organic paddy respondents and it was reversed in another village i.e., eight respondents were conventional and seven were organic paddy respondents. The sample constituted to a total of one twenty respondents (sixty organic & sixty conventional).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data was collected from the respondents on the constraints faced and suggestions to overcome that. The data obtained was analysed, interpreted, and accordingly the following results and conclusion were drawn.

It is indicated from the Table 1 that major production constraints reported by organic paddy farmers were unavailability of timely organic inputs was ranked first followed by complicated methods for production of organic inputs (II), lack of quality trainings on organic paddy farming practices (III), low yield of organic paddy (IV), bulky nature of organic inputs (V), lack of knowledge about control measures for pest and diseases (VI), lack of knowledge about organic weed management (VII), organic farming is a slow process (VIII), lack of knowledge about crop residue management (IX), limited amount of information and research available (X), lack of technical know how to get organic paddy certified from authorised agencies (XI) were ranked in order respectively.

Table 1 Constraints expressed by the organic paddy farmers N=120

SL.No A.	Production	MS	Rank
1.	Low yield of organic paddy	2.33	IV
2.	Bulky nature of organic inputs	2.26	V
3.	Unavailability of timely organic inputs.	2.53	I
4.	Complicated methods for production of organic inputs	2.43	II
5.	Organic farming is a slow process	2.13	VII
6.	Lack of quality trainings on organic paddy farming practices	2.36	III
7.	Lack of knowledge about control measures for pest and diseases	2.21	VI
8.	Lack of knowledge about organic weed management	2.16	VII
9.	Lack of knowledge about crop residue management.	2.11	IX
10.	Limited amount of information and research available	2.10	X
11.	Lack of technical know how to get organic paddy certified from authorised agencies	2.03	XI
B.	Situational	MS	Rank
1.	High cost and non-availability of human labour	2.63	I
2.	Heavy incidence of pest and diseases	1.78	III
3.	Erratic onset of monsoon	2.41	II
C.	Economic	MS	Rank
1.	Lack of subsidy for organic paddy growers	2.50	II
2.	Lack of capital	2.33	IV
3.	Low profit during initial period	2.56	I
4.	No minimum support price for organic paddy	2.43	III
5.	High certification charges	2.16	V
D.	Marketing	MS	Rank
1.	Lack of specialised markets for organic produce	2.63	I
2.	Lack of farmers co-operatives for marketing	2.5	IV
3.	Fluctuation in the prices of the produce.	2.58	II
4.	Insufficient marketing channels for organic produce	2.56	III
5.	Dependence / interference of middleman for disposal	2.45	VI
6.	Poor communication channels	2.41	VII
7.	Purchase agencies at long distance	2.31	IX
8.	Lack of storage facilities	2.48	V
9.	More transportation charges	2.33	VIII

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It is noticed from the Table 1 that major situational constraints reported by organic paddy farmers were high cost and non-availability of human labour was ranked first followed by erratic onset of monsoon (II) and heavy incidence of pest and diseases (III) respectively.

It is indicated from the Table 1 that major economic constraints reported by organic paddy farmers where low profit during initial period was ranked first followed by lack of subsidy for organic paddy growers (II), no minimum support price for organic paddy (III), lack of capital (IV) and high certification charges (V) respectively.

It is observed from the Table 1 that major marketing constraints reported by organic paddy farmers were lack of specialised markets for organic produce was ranked first followed by fluctuation in the prices of the produce (II), insufficient marketing channels for organic produce (III), lack of farmers co-operatives for marketing (IV) and lack of storage facilities (V), dependence / interference of middleman for disposal (VI), poor communication channels (VII), more transportation charges (VIII) and purchase agencies at long distance (IX) respectively.

Suggestions expressed by the organic farmers for promotion of organic paddy farming.

Table 2 Suggestions expressed by the organic paddy farmers for promotion of organic paddy farming. N=120

S.No	Suggestions	F	RK	Overall RK
A.	For production constraints			
1.	Providing support and risk coverage during transition period.	49 (81.66%)	III	V
2.	Adequately producing and making available of quality organic inputs (bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides) to farmers.	55 (91.66%)	I	I
3	Trainings and demonstrations for production of organic inputs, management practices and azolla cultivation.	50 (83.33%)	II	IV
4	Facilitate in creating more number of organic related FPO/FIG.	43 (71.66%)	V	X
5	Providing of concentrated organic manures like oil cakes, fish manures etc	39 (65.00%)	VI	XII
6	Demonstration on the efficient recycling methods of the organic wastes.	47 (78.33%)	IV	VII
B.	For situational constraints			
1.	Providing solar traps at affordable cost to the farmers.	38 (63.33%)	I	XIII
2.	Providing mini farm machineries.	35 (58.33%)	II	XIV
C.	For economic constraints			
1.	Providing organic inputs at subsidized rates	53 (88.33%)	I	II
2.	Providing minimum support price for organic produces	51 (85.00%)	II	III
3.	Promotion of PGS-INDIA organic certification	46 (76.66%)	III	VIII
D.	For marketing constraints			
1.	Providing specialised markets for organic produce.	48 (80.00%)	I	VI
2.	Providing storage and warehouse facility at RSK (Ryta Samparka Kendra).	45 (75.00%)	II	IX
3.	Control fake organic produce/ products in market through appropriate monitoring mechanism	42 (70.00%)	III	XI

Suggestions for production constraints as elicited by majority of organic paddy farmers (91.66%) from Table 2 were adequately producing and making available of quality organic inputs (bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides) to farmers followed by trainings and demonstrations for production of organic inputs, management practices and azolla cultivation (83.33%), providing support and risk coverage during transition period (81.66%), demonstration on the efficient recycling methods of the organic wastes (78.33%) and facilitate in creating more number of organic related FPO/FIG (71.66%).

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It could be observed from the table 2 that suggestions given for the situational constraints were providing solar traps at affordable cost to the farmer (63.33%). Solar trap to be installed are two per acre which was controlling stem borer and leaf folder. The cost was five thousand rupees purchased from lakshmi agencies and providing mini farm machineries (58.33%).

It could be indicated from the table 2 that suggestions provided for the economic constraints were providing organic inputs at subsidized rates (88.33%), Providing minimum support price for organic produces (85.00%) and Promotion of PGS-INDIA organic certification (76.66%).

It could be noticed from the table 2 that suggestions given for the marketing constraints were providing specialised markets for organic produce (80.00%), providing storage and warehouse facility at RSK (Ryta Samparka Kendra) (75.00%) and control fake organic produce/ products in market through appropriate monitoring mechanism (70.00%).

CONCLUSION

Major constraints reported by organic paddy farmers were unavailability of timely organic inputs followed by complicated methods for production of organic inputs, lack of quality trainings on organic paddy farming practices, low yield of organic paddy and bulky nature of organic inputs.

Suggestions for as elicited by majority of organic paddy farmers were adequately producing and making available of quality organic inputs (bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides) to farmers followed by trainings and demonstrations for production of organic inputs, management practices and azolla cultivation, providing support and risk coverage during transition period, demonstration on the efficient recycling methods of the organic wastes and facilitate in creating more number of organic related FPO/FIG.

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