

ORGANIC FARMING: MYTH & REALITY

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Organic farming has been practiced since the beginning of agriculture itself. It is an agricultural system that aims at establishing a sustainable management system for agriculture respecting nature's systems and cycles, contributes to a high level of biological diversity, makes responsible use of energy and natural resources and respects high animal welfare standards. It aims at producing a wide variety of high quality products responding to consumers' demand, while enhancing profitability of producers.

Many consumers associate the principles of organic agriculture with the 'no-use' of chemicals, such as pesticides, in the production. The general consumer is less commonly aware of the holistic and complex principles that are guarding organic food production concerning health, ecology, fairness and care; and the potential of improving soil fertility and water holding capacity through agro-ecological methods, e.g., integrated pest management, N-fixing crops, and use of compost.

There is a growing shift in consumer purchasing towards organic food all over the world. This trend has developed for a number of reasons :

- Loss of trust in non-organic food products after a long line of food scares.
- Desire to avoid pesticide residues in food.
- Desire to eat food produced without the use of GMOs and protect the environment from its contamination.
- Demand for the highest possible standards of animal welfare.
- Demand for environmental protection and enhancement.
- Confidence in the external inspection program and legal standards for production covering all organic production and processing.

However Organic food and farming is under the spotlight. More people are buying organic products and more questions are being asked about organic food and farming. Meanwhile those who have lost their profits such as pesticide producers are against this movement.

In this study we are going to discuss about some of myth and reality which is hidden behind the label of organic.



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