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## **Lecture -19**

# **INITIATIVES FOR PROMOTING ORGANIC FARMING**



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- Inability of Indian agriculture to meet the demand for food in the country during the two and a half decades immediately after independence had been a matter of concern at those times.
- The system of our agriculture based on traditional knowledge and practices handed down from generation to generation could not produce enough to feed the increasing population.
- The ignominy of our dependence for food on the western developed nations and the politics of food aid practiced by them added to our determination to be self-sufficient in food production by modernizing agriculture.



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- The "green revolution" fulfilled our aspirations by changing India from a food importing to a food exporting nation.
- Conventional farming had helped India not only to produce enough food for own consumption but also generated surpluses for exports.
- However, the increasing population and income will lead to further increases in demand for food and also for raw materials for industry.



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The first conference of NGOs on organic farming in India was organised by the Association for propagation of Indigenous Genetic Resources (APIGR) in October 1984 at Wardha.

- The year 2000 is very important year for India from organic point of view. The four major happenings were made during the year 2000. These are:
- The Planning Commission constituted (2000) a steering group on agriculture who identified organic farming as national challenge and suggested that it should be taken in the form of a project as major thrust area for 10th Plan.



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- The group recommended organic farming in NE region, rainfed areas and in the areas where the consumption of agrochemicals is low or negligible.
- The National Agricultural Policy (2000) recommended promotion of traditional knowledge of a agriculture relating to organic farming and its scientific u[gradations.

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# NATIONAL PROJECTS ON ORGANIC FARMING

- The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has launched a new central sector scheme 'National Project on Organic Farming' (NPOF) with an outlay of 57.05 crore for production, promotion and market development of organic farming in the country during 10th Plan on pilot basis.
- The project is operational since 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2004. Its Headquarters is NPOF, Ghaziabad which has six regional centers (RCOFs) at Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Hisar, Jabalpur, Imphal and Nagpur.



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- The unique feature of this scheme is to promote group certification by capacity building through service provider where the service provider will help organic farmers by providing training. educating on record management, supervising internal control stem, assisting in certification and market access.
- One service provider will be y registered with 1500 farmers working in identical geographical condition with similar type of crop. The group certification will reduce cost of certification.



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**Thank You**