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Center for Smart Agriculture Organic Farming



Module 1: Fundamentals of Organic Farming

Session 1: Introduction to Organic farming: Definition, Concepts, Principles, Objectives

Organic Farming



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“Organic agriculture is a unique production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity, and this is accomplished by using on-farm agronomic, biological and mechanical methods in exclusion of all synthetic off-farm inputs”



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“Organic farming is a system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetic inputs (such as fertilizers, pesticides, hormones, feed additives etc.) and to the maximum extent feasible rely upon crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, off-farm organic waste, mineral grade rock additives and biological system of nutrient mobilization and plant protection”



OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIC FARMING

To produce food of high nutritional quality in sufficient quantity

01

02

To work with natural systems rather than seeking to dominate them



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To encourage and enhance the biological cycles within farming system involving microorganism

03

04

To maintain and increase the long term fertility of soils

To use, as far as possible, renewable resources in locally organized agricultural systems

05



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06

To give all livestock, conditions of life that allow them to perform all aspects of their innate behavior

To work, as much as possible, within a closed system with regard to organic matter and nutrient elements

07

To avoid all forms of pollution that may result from agricultural techniques

08



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To maintain the genetic diversity of the agricultural system and its surroundings, including a safe working environment

09

To consider the wider social and ecological impact of the farming system

10

4 Basic Principles of Organic Farming



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| Principle of HEALTH | Principle of ECOLOGY | Principle of FAIRNESS | Principle of CARE |
|--|--|--|---|
| Organic agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible | Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them | Organic agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to common environment and life opportunities | Organic agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment |



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As organic management is an integrated approach; manipulation and adoption of one or few steps may not yield significant results. For optimization of productivity all the essential components need to be developed in a systematic manner.

- (i) Habitat development
- (ii) On-farm facilities for input production
- (iii) Cropping sequence and combination planning
- (iv) 3-4 year rotation plan and
- (v) Growing of crops suiting to the region, soil and climate.



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Thank You