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Center for Smart Agriculture

Organic Certification and Inspection Systems



Module 1: Organic Agriculture
Session 2: Principles Organic Agriculture



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PRINCIPLES ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

- ✓ To understand the motivation of organic farmers, the practices they use and what they want to achieve, it is important to understand the guiding principles of organic agriculture.
- ✓ These principles encompass the fundamental goals and caveats that are considered important for producing high quality food, fibre and other goods in an environmentally sustainable way.



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- ✓ The principles of organic agriculture have changed with the evolution of the movement and are now codified.
- ✓ The principles apply to agriculture in the broadest sense, including the way people tend soils, water, plants and animals in order to produce, prepare and distribute food and other goods.
- ✓ They concern the way people interact with living landscapes, relate to one another and shape the legacy of future generations.



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- ✓ The principles of organic agriculture serve to inspire the organic movement in its full diversity.
- ✓ They are the roots from which organic agriculture grows and develops.
- ✓ They express the contribution that organic agriculture can make to the world and a vision to improve all agriculture in a global context.
- ✓ The Principles of Organic Agriculture serve to inspire the organic movement in its full diversity.



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The International Federation for Organic Agriculture Movement's (IFOAM) definition of Organic agriculture is based on:

- The principle of health
- The principle of ecology
- The principle of fairness and
- The principle of care

Principle of health



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- ✓ Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.
- ✓ This principle points out that the health of individuals and communities cannot be separated from the health of ecosystems
- ✓ Health is the wholeness and integrity of living systems.



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- ✓ The role of organic agriculture, whether in farming, processing, distribution, or consumption, is to sustain and enhance the health of ecosystems and organisms from the smallest in the soil to human beings.
- ✓ In particular, organic agriculture is intended to produce high quality, nutritious food that contributes to preventive health care and well-being.
- ✓ It should avoid the use of fertilizers, pesticides, animal drugs and food additives that may have adverse health effects.



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Principle of ecology

- ✓ Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.
- ✓ This principle roots organic agriculture within living ecological systems. It states that production is to be based on ecological processes, and recycling.
- ✓ Nourishment and well-being are achieved through the ecology of the specific production environment.



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- ✓ Organic farming, pastoral and wild harvest systems should fit the cycles and ecological balances in nature.
- ✓ These cycles are universal but their operation is site-specific. Organic management must be adapted to local conditions, ecology, culture and scale.
- ✓ Inputs should be reduced by reuse, recycling and efficient management of materials.



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- ✓ Organic agriculture should attain ecological balance through the design of farming systems, establishment of habitats and maintenance of genetic and agricultural diversity.
- ✓ Those who produce, process, trade, or consume organic products should protect and benefit the common environment including landscapes, climate, habitats, biodiversity, air and water.



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Principle of fairness

- ❑ Organic Agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.
- ❑ Fairness is characterized by equity, respect, justice and stewardship of the shared world.
- ❑ This principle emphasizes that those involved in organic agriculture should conduct human relationships in a manner that ensures fairness at all levels and to all



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- ☐ Organic agriculture should provide everyone involved with a good quality of life, and contribute to food sovereignty and reduction of poverty.
- ☐ It aims to produce a sufficient supply of good quality food and other products.
- ☐ Natural and environmental resources that are used for production and consumption should be managed
- ☐ Fairness requires systems of production, distribution



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Principle of care

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.

Organic agriculture is a living and dynamic system that responds to internal and external demands and conditions.

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Consequently, new technologies need to be assessed and existing methods reviewed.

This principle states that precaution and responsibility are the key concerns in management, development and technology choices in organic agriculture



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THANK YOU