International Journal of Current Research and Modern Education (IJCRME)
Impact Factor: 6.725, ISSN (Online): 2455 - 5428
(www.rdmodernresearch.com) Volume 2, Issue 1, 2017

A STUDY ON ATTITUDE OF FARMERS TOWARDS ORGANIC FARMING

Dr. K. R. Sakthi Devi
Assistant Professor, PG & Research Department of Commerce (CS), Vellalar College for Women (Autonomous), Erode, Tamilnadu

Cite This Article: Dr. K. R. Sakthi Devi, "A Study on Attitude of Farmers Towards Organic Farming", International Journal of Current Research and Modern Education, Volume 2, Issue 1, Page Number 159-162, 2017.

Abstract:

Agriculture is the backbone of our country; it provides all the necessary food items to all the living creatures by direct or indirect means. Organic farming is gaining popularity all over the world, as it can diversify agricultural production systems towards attaining improved productivity, farm income and food, as well as environmental safety. The aim of this study was therefore to evaluate farmers Attitude towards organic farming and issues associated with it. The present study was conducted in Erode District. A convenient sampling technique was used to select 100 respondents. . The results here suggest that they feel they do not have a good level of knowledge about organic farming. Therefore an increase in information mainly focused on promoting organic farming as a profitable alternative to conventional farming could have a positive impact on the tendency for conversion.

Key Words: Organic Farming, Attitude & Farmers

Introduction:

Sustainable development has caught the imagination and action all over the world for more than a decade. Sustainable agriculture is necessary to attain the goal of sustainable development. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, sustainable agriculture" is the successful management of resources for agriculture to satisfy changing human needs while maintaining or enhancing the quality of environment and conserving natural resources". All definitions of sustainable agriculture lay great emphasis on maintaining an agriculture growth rate, which can meet the demand for food of all living things without draining the basic resources Organic farming is a method of crop and livestock production that involves much more than choosing not to use pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics and growth hormones.

"Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It emphasises 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." (FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, 1999). Organic agriculture systems and products are not always certified and are referred to as "non-certified organic agriculture or products". This excludes agriculture systems that do not use synthetic inputs by default (e.g. systems that lack soil building practices and degrade land). Organic production is a holistic system designed to optimize the productivity and fitness of diverse communities within the agro-ecosystem, including soil organisms, plants, livestock and people. The principal goal of organic production is to develop enterprises that are sustainable and harmonious with the environment. The general principles of organic production, from the Canadian Organic Standards (2006), include the following:

- ✓ Protect the environment, minimize soil degradation and erosion, decrease pollution, optimize biological productivity and promote a sound state of health
- ✓ Maintain long-term soil fertility by optimizing conditions for biological activity within the soil
- ✓ Maintain biological diversity within the system
- ✓ Recycle materials and resources to the greatest extent possible within the enterprise
- ✓ Provide attentive care that promotes the health and meets the behavioural needs of livestock
- ✓ Prepare organic products, emphasizing careful processing, and handling methods in order to maintain the organic integrity and vital qualities of the products at all stages of production
- ✓ Rely on renewable resources in locally organized agricultural systems

Review of Literature:

Kundan Kumar (2016) in his article measures the attitude of farmer towards Organic Farming. A total of 55statement were prepared, for which 'Likert method of summated ratings' was followed. And these statements were administered to the 30 numbers of farmer from non-sample area from two villages each covering of 15 farmers. A final list of 21Statements were selected based on the't' values (e" 2.145) obtained from the item analysis. The conclusion is that very much necessary to know the attitude of farmers, and for the

same purpose a scale has been developed comprising of 21 statements which can be used to measure the attitude of farmers towards organic farming.

M. Priyadharshini (2016) in her study designed a scale to measure the attitude of farmers towards organic farming practices in Tamil Nadu. Edward's equally appearing intervals scale was adopted to develop the scale. The final scale comprised ten statements. This scale was standardized for administration.

Dr. Suresh Patidar (2015) in his article A Study of Perception of Farmers towards Organic Farming the present study was conducted in Madhya Pradesh, India. The state of Madhya Pradesh consists of 39 districts; out of these a convenient and purposive sampling technique was used to select 100 respondents from 50 villages of Khargone district of Nimar region. Descriptive statistics and factor analysis were used to present the findings of the study while the Chi-square analysis was used to test the study hypotheses. Study revealed that 67% of respondents have positive perception towards organic farming. Also, 5 out of 9 variables selected, affects respondents perception towards organic farming. There were significant relationships ($p \leq 0.05$) between respondents' age, educational background, farm size, benefits, social aspects and perception of organic farming.

Statement of the Problem:

Agriculture is the life line of humanity. Any change in agriculture will result in corresponding change in the life of people and of nature and vice versa too. In India, the farmers have followed the path for organic food production, but the share of India in the world organic market is less than one percent. The main problem of the study is to know about the attitude of the farmers towards organic farming.

Objective of the Study:

- ✓ To know the socio-economic profile of the farmers.
- ✓ To determine the level of awareness about organic farming among farmers
- ✓ To identity the factors influencing the attitude of farmers towards organic farming.

Methodology:

The aim objective of the study is to know about the attitude of farmers towards organic farming. The data collected for the study is based on primary and secondary data. Primary data have been collected from 100 respondents by issuing questionnaire. The secondary data will be collected from various books, magazine, journals, newspapers and websites. The convenience sampling method will be used for selecting sample respondents for this study.

Limitation of the Study:

- ✓ The study depends upon primary data and the data is valuated based on the response by the respondents.
- ✓ The sample size is limited to 100 due to time constraints
- ✓ The area of the study limited to Erode district only.

Analysis and Interpretation:

Table 1: Socio-Economic Profile of the Farmers

S.No	Particulars		No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Gender	Male	60	60
		Female	40	40
2	Area	Urban	27	27
		Semi-Urban	18	18
		Rural	45	45
3	Age	Below 30 yrs	22	22
		31-40yrs	61	61
		Above 40 yrs	17	17
4	Marital Status	Married	66	66
		Unmarried	44	44
5	Educational Qualification	Higher Secondary	20	20
		UG	48	48
		PG	15	15
		others	17	17
6	No. of Family Members	Up to 3	35	35
		4-5	42	42
		Above 5	23	23
7	Monthly Income	Up to 30,000	22	22
		30,001-40,000	41	41
		Above 40,000	37	37
8	Awareness About Organic Farming	Highly Aware	15	15
		Aware	67	67
		Not Aware	18	18

Source: Primary Data

From the above table Majority 60 percent of the respondents are Male. Most of 48 per cent of the respondents are from rural area. Majority of 61 percent of the respondents are under the age 31-40 years. Majority 66 percent of the respondents are married. Most of 48 percent of the respondent's educational qualification is UG. Most of 42 percent of the respondents have four - five members in their family. Most of 41 percent of the respondent's monthly income ranges between 30001-40000. Majority of 67 percent of the respondents are aware about organic farming.

Table 2: Source of Information about Organic Farming

Source	No. of Respondents	Percent
Television	20	20
Magazines/Newspaper	37	37
Friends	16	16
Relatives	14	14
Pamphlets & Agents	13	13
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

From the above table 20 per cent of the farmers know about organic farming through television. 37 percent of the farmers came about organic farming by means of Magazines/Newspaper. 16 per cent of the farmers come to know about organic farming by their friends. 14 percent of the farmers came to know about organic farming by their relatives. 13 percent of the farmers came to know about organic farming through Pamphlets & Agents. The major sources that helped organic farming, in order of its importance are Magazines/ Newspaper.

Table 3: Factors Influencing the Attitude of Farmers towards Organic Farming

S.No	Variable	χ^2 Value	Significance
1	Gender and Factors Influencing the attitude of farmers	14.68	significant **
2	Area and Factors Influencing the attitude of farmers	2.36	Not significant ns
3	Age and Factors Influencing the attitude of farmers	7.42	significant *
4	Marital Status and Factors Influencing the attitude of farmers	5.65	Not significant ns
5	Education Qualification and Factors Influencing the attitude of farmers	15.65	significant *
6	Family Members and Factors Influencing the attitude of farmers	11.05	significant **
7	Monthly income and Factors Influencing the attitude of farmers	8.11	Not significant ns

Source: Primary data *- 10% level of freedom ** - 5% level of freedom *** - 1 % level of freedom

It can be inferred that there exists an association between Gender, Age, Educational Qualification and No. of members in the Family and the Factors Influencing the attitude of farmers towards organic farming.

Suggestions:

- ✓ The government can show much more interest toward organic farming. The organic farmers may provide with subsidies, awards and rewards for practicing organic farming successfully.
- ✓ More number of training programmes can be conducted for the farmers for adopting new methodologies and techniques in organic farming.
- ✓ Proper enlightenments programme geared towards the education of the farmers should be given to rural farmers as way of educating them on the importance of organic farming.
- ✓ Research on agriculture should take climate and the nutrition plants have into consideration.
- ✓ More subsidy and research funding should be provided for organic and eco-friendly agriculture.

Conclusion:

In India, the farmers have followed the path for organic food production, but the share of India in the world, organic market is very less. Even though large number of farmers and farm labours are migrating from this sector. The organic farming is an integrated approach, where all aspects of farming systems are interlinked with each other and work for each other; therefore it is very much necessary to know the attitude of farmers. The results revealed that majority of the farmers are aware about organic farming and they came to know about organic farming through magazines /newspaper.

References:

1. Kundan Kumar (2016) "A Scale to Measure Attitude of Farmers' towards Organic Farming" Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu. 16 (1).
2. M. Priyadharshini (2016) "A Scale to measure attitude of farmers towards organic farming practices in Tamilnadu" International journal of farms and science, ISSN: 2229-3744 Print; 2250-0499 Online

3. Dr. Suresh Patidar (2015) A Study of Perception of Farmers towards Organic Farming, International Journal of Application or Innovation in Engineering & Management (IJAIEM), Volume 4, Issue 3, March 2015 ISSN 2319 - 484
4. Bemwad, Geier, 1999, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, in Sustainable Agriculture Solutions: The Action report of the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative, Novello Press, London.
5. N. Chandrakala & Dr. P. Kanchana Devi, (2016) "A Study On Attitude of the Organic Farmers with Supply Chain Management on the Market for Their Commodities with Special Reference to Coimbatore District" International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Modern Education, ISSN (Online): 2454 – 6119, Volume II, Issue II, Page Number 154-159.
6. P. Senthilkumar, "A Study on Investment Pattern and Awareness of Farmers in Pollachi Thaluk", International Journal of Interdisciplinary Research in Arts and Humanities, Volume 2, Issue 1, Page Number 4-8, 2017.
7. V. Sureshkumar, "Impact of Agricultural Schemes by Central Government – A Status Study on Farmers of Pollachi, Coimbatore District, Tamilnadu", International Journal of Interdisciplinary Research in Arts and Humanities, Volume 2, Issue 1, Page Number 21-28, 2017.
8. Baron, R. A. and Byrne, D. (1991) Social psychology, understanding human interaction. Prentice-Hall of India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
9. http://www.fao.org/organicag/oa-faq/oa-faq1/en/
10. http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/09-077.htm