

Organic Farming in Tirupur City

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Abstract

Organic foods are foods that are produced using methods that do not involve modern synthetic inputs such as synthetic pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Organic foods are also not processed using irradiation, industrial solvents, or chemical food additives. The weight of the available scientific evidence has not shown a consistent significant difference between organic and more conventionally grown food in terms of safety, nutritional value or taste. For the vast majority of its history, agriculture can be described as having been organic; only during the 20th century was large supply of new “chemicals” introduced. The organic farming movement started in the 1940s in response to the industrialization of agriculture known as the green revolution.

Keywords : Chemicals, industrialization, organic foods

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Organic food production is a heavily regulated industry, distinct from private gardening. Currently, the European Union, the United States, Canada, Japan and many other countries require producers to obtain special certification in order to market food as organic within their borders. In the context of these regulations, organic food is a food produced in a way that complies with organic standards set by national governments and international organizations (ACNielsen, 2006 ; Ajzen, 2001). In the United States, organic production is a system that is managed in accordance with the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) of 1990 and regulations in Title 7, Part 205 of the code of federal regulations to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that cycling of resources, promote ecological balance and conserve biodiversity (Banumathi, 2011).

Statement of the Problem

Now-a-days, there are various food products available in the market. In this situation organic food products has plenty of advantages as compared to the non-organic food that have been processed with artificial preservatives and chemicals (Karpagavalli, 2017). The study found that the problem settling for these foods for everyday recipes can really assure health benefits since these are all natural and there is no harmful effects of pesticide and other chemicals. The present study aimed to know the perception of farmers towards organic food products production in Tirupur city.

Objectives of the Study

- ❖ To study the socio-economic conditions of the farmers.
- ❖ To identify the factors influencing cultivation the organic products.
- ❖ To analyze the level of satisfaction towards cultivation of organic products.

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Scope of the Study

This study includes all aspects of farmers' perception towards organic product and their satisfaction. It also extends to the perception of farmers towards factors influencing cultivation of organic food products and benefits of organic food products. The period of study covered six months from June 2016 to December 2016.

Research Methodology

Sample Size : 100 respondents in Tirupur city.

Nature of Data : Both primary and secondary.

Sampling Technique : Convenience sampling.

Statistical tools used : Simple percentage analysis, point analysis, chi-square test, rank analysis (Karpagavalli & Mohanasoundari, 2015; Karpagavalli & Mohanasoundari, 2017).

Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1 shows the demographic factors. Table 2 and Figure 1 show the number of acres of land used for organic farming. From Table 2 it can be inferred that 36% of the respondents use 5-8 acres for organic farming, 28% of the respondents use below 3 acres, 22% of the respondents use above 8 acres, and 14% of the respondents use 3-5 acres for organic farming.

Figure 2 shows that 43% of the respondents have involved 10 to 15 years in organic farming, 25% of the respondents have involved 15-20 years, 17% of the respondents have involved 5 to 10 years and 15% of the respondents have been involved below 5 years in organic farming. Table 3 shows that 25% of the sample has 15-20 years of experience in organic farming.

Table 1. Demographic Factors

Factor	Group	Number	%
Age	Below 20 years	13	13
	21-30 years	18	18
	31-35 years	32	32
	More than 35 years	37	37
Gender	Male	66	66
	Female	34	34
Nature of family	Nuclear	56	56
	Joint	44	44
Family income of respondent	Below ₹5000	8	8
	₹ 5001-8000	11	11
	₹ 8001-10000	13	13
	Above ₹10000	68	68
Number of family members	3 members	28	28
	3-3 members	11	11
	4-6 members	42	42
	Above 6 members	19	19
Total		100	100

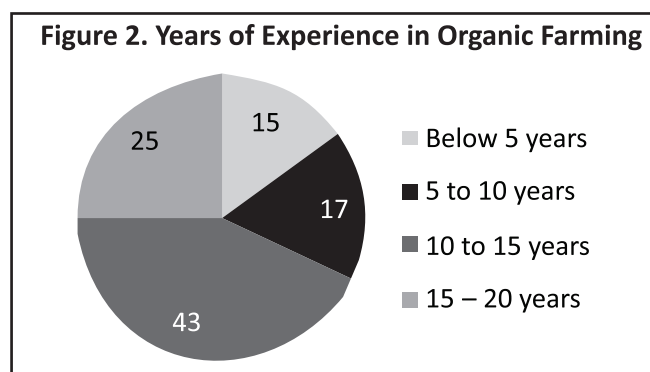
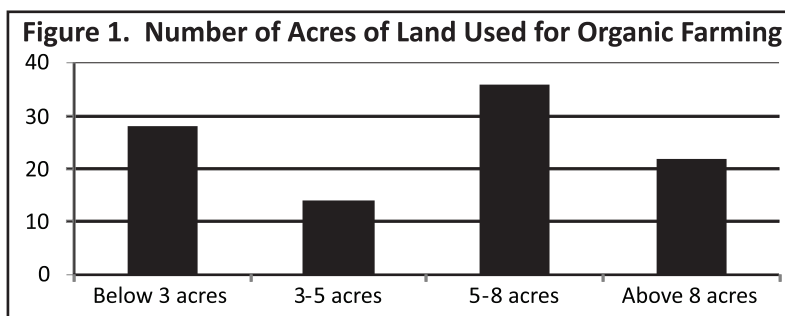


Table 2. Number of Acres of Land Used for Organic Farming

S.No.	Acres	Number of Respondents	%
1	Below 3 acres	28	28
2	3-5 acres	14	14
3	5-8 acres	36	36
4	Above 8 acres	22	22
Total		100	100

Table 3. Years of Experience in Organic Farming

S.No.	Years	Number of Respondents	%
1	Below 5 years	15	15
2	5 to 10 years	17	17
3	10 to 15 years	43	43
4	15 - 20 years	25	25
Total		100	100

Table 4 indicates that 43% of the respondents cultivate vegetables, 35% of the respondents cultivate fruits, 12% of the respondents cultivate rice, and 10% of the respondents cultivate herbs and medicaments.

Table 5 reveals that the factor nutritional value was assigned first rank, quality of the product was assigned second rank, high profit was assigned third rank, save the land was assigned fourth rank, serve the society was assigned fifth rank, and never end cultivation was assigned sixth rank.

Table 6 shows that 43% of the respondents are highly satisfied, 41% of the respondents are satisfied, 11% of the respondents are moderate and 5 % of the respondents are dissatisfied with yield. The total point obtained is 422 and the calculated mean value is 4.22 which is greater than the mean value 3. Hence, the respondents are satisfied with the yield.

Table 4. Type of Organic Product Cultivation

S.No.	Organic products	Number of respondents	%
1	Vegetables	43	43
2	Fruits	35	35
3	Rice	12	12
4	Herbs and Medicaments	10	10
Total		100	100

Table 5. Motivational Factors of Farming Organic Product (Rank)

Factors	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Total Points	Rank
Serve the society	18	20	12	14	22	24	366	5
Quality of the product	25	20	12	24	12	7	401	2
Save the land	27	16	19	14	10	14	394	4
Nutritional value	28	25	21	10	10	6	433	1
Never end cultivation	14	12	20	25	16	13	344	6
High profit	22	25	13	20	11	9	400	3

Table 6. Satisfaction With Yield

S.No.	Satisfaction level	Number of respondents	%	Point analysis
1	Highly satisfied	43	43	215
2	Satisfied	41	41	164
3	Moderate	11	11	33
4	Dissatisfied	5	5	10
5	Highly dissatisfied	0	0	0
	Total	100	100	422
	Mean value			4.22

Table 7. Satisfaction With Profit

S.No.	Satisfaction Level	Number of Respondents	%	Point Analysis
1	Highly satisfied	21	21	105
2	Satisfied	41	41	164
3	Moderate	23	23	69
4	Dissatisfied	10	10	20
5	Highly dissatisfied	5	5	5
	Total	100	100	363
	Mean value			3.63

Table 7 shows that 41% of the respondents are satisfied, 23% of the respondents are moderately satisfies, 21% of the respondents are highly satisfied, 10% of the respondents are dissatisfied, and 5 % of the respondents are highly dissatisfied with profit.

The total point obtained is 363 and the calculated mean value is 3.63 which is greater than the mean value 3. Hence the respondents are satisfied with profit.

Table 8. Relationship Between Age Group and Years Involved in Organic Farming

Age Group / Years	Below 5 years	5 - 10 years	10 - 15 years	15-20 years	Total
Below 20 years	3	4	5	1	13
21 - 30 years	4	5	5	4	18
31 - 35 years	2	6	10	14	32
Above 35 years	6	2	23	6	37
Total	15	17	43	25	100

(i) Chi - Square Test : Age Group & Years of Organic Farming

Hypothesis : There is no significant relationship between age group and years of experience in organic farming.

Table 8 shows the relationship between age group and years of organic farming. The calculated chi-square value (21.364) is higher than the table value of 16.9. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. It can be concluded that there is significant relationship between age group and years of experience in organic farming. If the calculated chi square value is greater than the Table value, the null hypothesis is rejected.

(ii) Chi –Square Test - Family Income & Number of Acres

Hypothesis : There is no significant relationship between family income and number of acres of land used for organic farming.

Table 9. Relationship Between Family Income and Number of Acres of Land Used for Organic Farming

Family income /No. of acres	Below 3 acres	3 - 5 acres	5 - 8 acres	Above 8 acres	Total
Below ₹ 5000	2	3	0	3	8
₹ 5001-8000	5	2	4	0	11
₹ 8001-10000	4	3	2	4	13
Above ₹ 10000	17	6	30	15	68
Total	28	14	36	22	100

The calculated chi-square value (16.77) (Table 9) is lower than the table value of 16.9. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. It can be concluded that there is significant relationship between family income and number of acres of land used for organic farming. If the calculated chi square value is less than the Table value, the hypothesis is rejected.

Findings and Suggestions

Most of the respondents are satisfied with profit. Majority of the respondents recommend others to produce organic products. The government can provide various loans and other facilities to farmers. The government can reduce the export procedures of Indian organic foods; it would help to improve export performance. Government should arrange for publicity about organic food advantages among customers.

Implications

Organic farming system in India is not new and is being followed from ancient time. It is a method of farming system which is primarily aimed at cultivating land and raising crops in such a way, as to keep the soil alive and in good health by use of organic wastes (crop, animal and farm wastes, and aquatic wastes), and other biological materials along with beneficial microbes (bio-fertilizers) to release nutrients to crops for increased sustainable production in an eco friendly pollution free environment. With the increase in population our compulsion would be not only to stabilize agricultural production but to increase it further in a sustainable manner. Scientists have realized that the 'Green Revolution' with high input use has reached a plateau and is now sustained with diminishing returns. Thus, a natural balance needs to be maintained at all costs for existence of life and property. The obvious choice for that would be more relevant in the present era, when agrochemicals that are produced from fossil fuel and are not renewable are diminishing in availability. It may also weigh heavily on our foreign exchange in future (Karpagavalli & Mohanasoundari, 2015; Tamilselvi, Karpagavalli, & Karthika, 2017).

Conclusion

Organic food is produced by farmers who emphasize the use of renewable resources and the conservation of soil and water to maintain or improve environmental quality for future generations. The present study reveals perception of farmers towards organic cultivation in Tirupur city. Most of the respondents are satisfied with profit from organic food. Organic food production costs are higher in the developed countries as organic farming in labour intensive and labour is costly in these countries. The increasing demand for organic food products in the developed countries and the extensive support by the Indian government coupled with its focus on agro-exports are the drivers for the Indian organic food industry.

Limitations of the Study

- (1) The inferences from survey instruments may be biased due to their socio economic characteristics and the urgency of need of satisfying various needs of farmers. These factors will have to be kept in mind and sufficient care should be taken while generalizing the inferences obtained from the study.
- (2) The study is limited to Tirupur city.
- (3) Only 100 samples were collected due to time and cost limitations.

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