

Proceedings of National Conference on “Organic & Natural Farming in Context to Indian Agriculture” held on May 13-14, 2022 at CSAUA&T, Kanpur

In our continued endeavor of celebrating Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav and on the occasion of the Alumni meet university had organized a National Conference on “Organic & Natural Farming in Context to Indian Agriculture”. The premise was that to arrive at suitable strategies and options about the Organic products are grown under a system of agriculture without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides with an environmentally and socially responsible approach. This is a method of farming that works at grass root level preserving the reproductive and regenerative capacity of the soil, good plant nutrition, and sound soil management, produces nutritious food rich in vitality which has resistance to diseases. Organic farming in India has been reinvented and getting more popularity with each passing day. Farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers, administrators, policy makers and of course consumers are showing increasingly greater interest in promotion and development of organic farming in the country. Organic food products are considered to be much safer and nutritious than the products produced by the conventional farming. Organic farming also helps to restore the soil health, protect environment, enhance biodiversity, sustain crop productivity and enhance farmers’ income. Seeing the long-term benefits of organic farming, the Government of India has taken many important steps for its promotion in the country. With the support of all kinds of stakeholders and the Government, the scope of organic farming movement has widened tremendously in India.

The inaugural programme of the Conference was started by an introductory address from Dr. D.R. Singh, Vice Chancellor, CSA University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur. This was followed by a formal welcome address by Dr. Munish Kumar, Professor and Organizing secretary- NCONFIA- 2022. The Chief Guest of the day was Sri Surya Pratap Shahi ji, Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture, Agriculture Education & Research, Govt. of U.P. started his inaugural address, by congratulating the Vice chancellor and his team for organizing the conference on a very important contemporary topic which is crucial at this moment. He addressed the august gathering and explained the importance of natural and organic farming in India and also stresses on organic farming is practiced in 187 countries at about 72.3 million hectares of agricultural land, which is managed by at least 3.1 million farmers. The inauguration was followed by the technical session during which speakers/Scientists presented scientific aspects Organic and Natural farming in India and following recommendations emerged from the deliberations made in the National Conference on “Organic & Natural Farming in Context to Indian Agriculture” held on May 13-14, 2022 at CSAUA&T, Kanpur.

Recommendations

- The enhanced soil fertility leads to stabilization of soil organic matter and in many cases sequestration of carbon dioxide into the soils.
- Increases the soil’s water retention capacity, thus contributing to better adaptation of organic agriculture under unpredictable climatic conditions with higher temperatures and uncertain precipitation levels.

- Organic production methods emphasizing soil carbon retention are most likely to withstand climatic challenges particularly in those countries which are most vulnerable to increased climate change.
- Organic agriculture has considerable potential for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Organic agriculture requires less fossil fuel per hectare and kg of produce due to the avoidance of synthetic fertilizers. Organic agriculture aims at improving soil fertility and nitrogen supply by using leguminous crops, crop residues and cover crops.
- Organic systems are highly adaptive to climate change due to the application of traditional skills and farmers' knowledge, soil fertility-building techniques and a high degree of diversity.
- Gender equality should be encouraged in all facets of agricultural decisions and promote gender specific technologies that are financially affordable. All policy interventions should undergo a gender audit before implementation at the grass root level.
- Policy makers should recognize the role of extensionists (public and private NGOs officially by spelling out a policy to facilitate their participation in national planning.
- Skill development among Indian farmers requires to be operationalized at field level for tapping the vast production potential of agricultural resources.
- Recommendations for improving women's participation in organic farming and More amenities should be given to poor rural women for land, organic agricultural and livestock extension services.
- By providing financial powers to women farmers in accessing credit on soft terms from banks and other financial institutions for landholdings, setting up their occupation, for buying properties, and for house building etc.
- The women farmers Skill empowerment training in the area of numerous operations- Organic farming, Vocational training, Field operations, Conservation of biodiversity and Nutritional biosecurity etc.

