

A Review on Role of Women in Organic and Sustainable farming

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Abstract: *Agriculture is the backbone of the economic system of India. In addition to providing food and raw material, agriculture also provides employment opportunities to a very large percentage of the population. Organic farming is an agricultural method that uses fertilizers of natural origin. Different kind of natural products like compost manure, green manure, and bone meal etc. It originated early in the 20th century in reaction to rapidly changing farming practices. Organic farming continues to be developed by various organizations today. Use of biopesticides (Biological pest control), mixed cropping and the nurturing of insect predators are encouraged. Organic standards are designed to allow the use of naturally-occurring substances while eradication or strictly preventive synthetic substances. Organic and sustainable farming has the potential to create new structures that actively work towards achieving women's empowerment and protecting the use of indigenous knowledge. This is a challenge for the organic movement, particularly certified organic, which is predominately driven and supported by political, cultural, economic and social structures.*

Keywords: Organic farming, Sustainable farming, Women

I. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development has fixed the imagination and achievement 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 (FAO), 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 one of the several approaches found to meet the objectives of sustainable agriculture. Many techniques used in organic farming like inter-cropping, mulching and integration of crops and livestock are not alien to various agriculture systems including the traditional agriculture practiced in old countries like India. However, organic farming is based on various laws and certification programmes, which prohibit the use of almost all synthetic inputs, and health of the soil is recognized as the central theme of the method. Adverse effects of modern agricultural practices not only on the farm but also on the health of all living things and thus on the environment have been well documented all over the world. Application of technology, particularly in terms of the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides all around us has persuaded people to think aloud. Their negative effects on the environment are manifested through soil erosion, water shortages, salination, soil contamination, genetic erosion, etc. (S. Narayan, 2005).

Organic farming is one of the widely used methods, which is thought of as the best alternative to avoid the ill effects of chemical farming. Organic agricultural methods are internationally synchronized and legally enforced by many nations, based in large part on the standards set by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). Organic agriculture can be defined as "an integrated farming scheme that strives for sustainability, the improvement of soil fertility and biological diversity. While it's useful to be familiar with how the organic farming interest group has opened opportunities for women in agriculture. Like that necessary acknowledgement is how the participation of women broadens and deepens the multiple goals of organic and sustainable farming. Globally, women farmers play an essential role in reducing world hunger. Women inward bound organic farming as new farmers. They focused to increase access to food and quality nutrition for their family, as well

as families in their community. Similar to findings in North America and Europe, women in developing countries tend to farm with a collaborative spirit, using their leadership positions to increase education, environmental health, and food access in their communities (Sarah Weston, 2018). Organic farming is able to empower women has further beneficial impacts on food security. It has been shown that when women have responsibility over resources, such as land and other productive resources including livestock, they have greater capacity to optimize their use, increasing food production and enhancing the nutritional health of their families (Madeley, 2002).

Organic and sustainable farming has the potential to create new structures that actively work towards achieving women's empowerment and protecting the use of indigenous knowledge. This is a challenge for the organic movement, particularly certified organic, which is predominately driven and supported by political, cultural, economic and social structures. To achieving women's empowerment, It is necessary to include the provision of equal opportunities and resources to both men and women. In agriculture, important resources include among others, land, credit, participation to decision-making bodies/organizations and capacity building through trainings and extension services. The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) believes that organic farming can empower women by improving their access to education, strengthening their bargaining power and focusing on their health.

1.1 Policies for Promotion of Organic Farming

In 2000, India propelled the National Program for Natural Generation (NPOP) pointed at the 'focused and well-directed improvement of natural agriculture'. A year afterward, the National Authorize Arrangement and Program (NAPP) was begun to set the benchmarks for natural horticulture in India. In 2004, beneath the tenth year arrange, a central conspire called the National Extend on Natural Cultivating (NPOF) for capacity building, monetary bolster and human asset advancement was started. Within the same year, India too established the National Middle of Natural Cultivating (NCOF) to execute the NPOF. Niti Aayog, India's arrangement think-tank, has been advancing Zero Budget Normal Cultivating (ZBNF) since 2018. ZBNF may be a kind of natural cultivating in which no outside inputs are required.

There is also special focus on soil fertility and water efficiency. Niti Aayog has encouraged state governments to promote ZBNF through two schemes the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY, traditional farming mission) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY, national farming development mission). All these programmes aim at increasing farmer incomes and environmental gains. But they lack all elements of gender equality, our research shows. They do not factor in the existing social biases that exclude women farmers from commercial responsibilities such as marketing (Meenakshi Kapoor, 2021). Gujarat government characterizes natural cultivating as "a framework of cultivating which sustains and moderates characteristic assets to supply sufficient and nutritious nourishment as well as fundamental ought to all life forms counting people living on a unit like a cultivate, town or an eco-zone". In 2015, the state declared it's Approach for Natural Cultivating with objectives for soil richness, preservation of bio-resources, cultivating of country economy and upgraded living standard of ranchers and farm-workers. However, objectives of women strengthening or sexual orientation balance don't highlight in it.

The vital role played by women in Indian agriculture is a well-known fact. Agriculture in India has been a joint venture of male and female members of the family. Women are said to devote 40 per cent of their efforts towards farming and 60 per cent for food preparation (Nagnur et al., 2012). Rural farm women are extensively involved in agricultural activities and the extent of their involvement differs with the variations in agro-production systems. In all farm production, women's average contribution is estimated at 55 percent to 66 percent of the total labour (Reddy, 2010). Women are the major stakeholders in organic agriculture, precisely because they are the worst victims of chemical farming. Over decades, the socio-economic and health status of women in farming communities has been adversely affected by green revolution/industrial farming technologies and policies leading them into poor health, debt, disease and destitution. So, it becomes all the more important to involve women while transferring farm technology.

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