
NATURAL FARMING AND PRICE POLICY IN INDIA

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Abstract

India is one of the prominent agricultural centered Nations approximately more than 58 % of the population related to agricultural sector. It is the crucial importance of agriculture in Indian Economy pertaining to economic growth. Before Independence, in the British era there was pressure to food security due to uncontrolled population growth and frequent natural calamities like droughts. Government of India was given focus to agriculture sector in first five year plan (1951-56). Hence the chief objective of first five year plan was to restore the disequilibrium created by the Second World War and the Partition. In 1961 The Indian Government has been adopted Green Revolution farming practices by using chemical fertilizers for cultivation diseases and weed management. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wik>)

There was increase in production and productivity due to chemical or conventional farming and our country was able to satisfy partly the food security with raising ample food grain production. But after 40 years of independence productivity of Indian agriculture declined drastically with high input cost for marginal farmers. It turned to be unfavorable occupation with high water consumption, unfavorable price number of natural and manmade issues. In this condition people are thinking on Natural Farming which is sustainable.

In this paper, study is done about types of farming, present status, productivity, and its impact on human health. The predominant question then is how can the farmers shift from a chemical-intensive agriculture to one that is based on the utilization of natural systems, and still maintain their economic Viability. It is encouraging that there are some efforts now underway by university researchers, the Indian government, and the private sector to develop nature farming as an alternative to chemical based agriculture.

<http://www.ijaar.co.in/>

Introduction

The share of agriculture in GDP registered a steady decline in 50% in 1950-51, 36.4% in 1982-83, 18.5% in 2006-07, and 13% in 2008-09. Even through large number of farmers and farm labours are migrating from this sector, 52% of the people are still in farming contributions only 13% to GDP. This reveals clearly that there is no change to have growth in income of farmers and farm labours. The existing Chemical Fertilizer holds 98% of share in farming. Prior to 1965, our country followed 100% Natural Farming practice without chemicals fertilizers and pesticides. (K. Guruswamy 2010). The importance of the natural farming in human life is that it deals with various health issues. Due to this developed countries are returning to undisruptive Natural Farming practice. But in India, Natural Farming practice is less than 2% since government institutions are not supported to Natural Farming. Natural Farming in India is still at an emerging stage. To extent it into a mass movement, government must take big steps. Natural Farming will address the ecological and economic crises in Indian agriculture. Only by using farming methods that are sustainable in the long run will Indian agriculture, and India, become truly independent. Natural Farming or Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) has become a revolve point of discussion among the agricultural scientists, government, farmers and several other informal groups engaged in agriculture in respect of prices. Agriculture in India has witnessed several technological advancements. In mid 1960 'Green Revolution' (GR) transformed India from food scarce country to food surplus. However, it also leads to unfavorable impacts like, soil degradation, biodiversity losses, rising cost of cultivation, and consequently rise in prices. Etc. Rising application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides with stagnating/ declining crop productivity dovetailed with uncertain market conditions and climate change effect resulted into unremunerative agriculture. Consequently, large number of farmers falling into debt trap and distress in farming sector became pervasive. In due course, organic farming started gaining importance. (<https://www.cseindia>). In view of these developments, efforts are now underway to evaluate nature farming as an alternative, mainly; the research being

conducted is focused on the input side of production. This research is directed toward minimizing or reducing the input costs of production. This is referred to as Minimum Input Farming. The objectives of the research are twofold: to determine how best to minimize the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The following research is directed toward minimizing the use of chemical fertilizers.

Farming System in India:

In Indian Economy Farming system are deliberately adopted, according to the regional atmosphere where they are most suitable. The farming systems that drastically contribute to the Indian Economy are Subsistence farming, Chemical Farming, Organic farming, Industrial farming and Natural farming.

Subsistence Farming: it occurs when farmers grow food crops to meet the needs of themselves and their families.

Chemical Farming: Chemical farming is done by using chemical pesticides, fungicides and by using artificial fertilizers which not only harms plants but can also pollute the surrounding environment, if put in excess. Also if these chemicals are used over a land for a long time the land starts losing all its minerals and other useful stuffs hence leaving the land useless.

Organic Farming: it is an agriculture system that uses fertilizers of organic origin such as compost manure, green manure. While organic farming is done with minimum use or no use of chemicals. In this type of farming, manure and natural fertilizers are used which are biodegradable and thus do not pollute the environment. Also, it has an advantage over land that land is always fertile.
https://www.answers.com/Q/What_is_chemical_farming

Industrial Farming: it is a form of modern farming that refers to the industrialized production of crops and animals like eggs or milk.

Natural Farming:

Natural farming is a system where the laws of nature are applied to agricultural practices.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Why+is+natural+farming>

Zero Budget Natural Farming in Perception of Shri. Subhash Palekar:

India is projected to be the heavily populated country in the world by 2030, with 1.51 billion people. In this situation ensure food security for all people is the biggest challenge in front of the policy makers and government. Thus adopting better farming practices at large scale without assessing its scientific capability will be negative impact on crop yield and food and nutritional security. In 1961 Indian Government had adopted “Green Revolution” (intensive use of HYV seeds, chemical fertilizer and irrigation) which given result in overcoming the food shortage in the country. However, it led to considerable adverse environmental impacts, such as soil degradation, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and biodiversity losses etc. With studying these drawback of Conventional Farming practices, In 1990s Shri. Subhash Palekar promoted Zero Budget Natural farming which is a unique Chemical free farming practice that is considered to be agroecology-based diversified farming system. According to Sh. Subhash Palekar, the ZBNF/NF has following 4 essential components:

Jeevamritha: Ensuring soil fertility through Cow urine, Cow dung, intact soil, pulses flour, and jaggery.

Beejamritha: seed treatment with cow dung, urine and lime based formulations.

Mulching: Using polycropping and different mulches with trees, cropbiomass to conserve soil moisture and adding organic carbon.

Whapsa: water Vapour condensation through activating available earthworms.

Subhash Palekar, promoter of the concept Zero Budget Farming eliminated the labour shortage problem and reduces the input cost to the bear minimum. He claims that ‘Green Revolution had poisoned air water and food because of the application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It also polluted the soil forcing the farmer to add more and more fertilizer and had finally denuded the land to the extent that productivity has started coming down. The repeated use of fertilizer and pesticide pushed farmers into debt trap and unable to come out of the clutches of money lenders, many farmers committed suicide. The only alternative for farmers is to reduce the cost of cultivation will come

down. Soil, water, crops and the produce firm healthy, making agriculture, a profitable occupation for farming. Indian agriculture for long remained sustainable only because of the low external input factor and that it turned bad only after the advent of foreign companies which sold “poisons” by marketing them at medicines. Zero Budget farming appears to be superior to both Conventional Farming and organic farming since it solves the problem of labour shortage and marketing which are perennial problem in agriculture. Further study can be undertaken comparing all the three types of farming practices to arrive the best one for India.

Objectives of the study

1. It generates full time employment for farmers and agricultural labourers.
2. It improves water holding capacity of soils.
3. Draught resisted seeds are available to overcome irregular seasonal rain and considerably more climate friendly.
4. No loss of life due to least debt and better price.
5. It is labour and knowledge intensive.

Hypothesis

Prices in Natural farming are cost intensive and quality scarceness.

Natural Farming is alternative to Organic and Chemical farming.

Methodology

This paper presents the results of the secondary data which is university-based research initiative on natural farming, including a discussion of its implications and some policy imperatives. We hope the paper will answer some of the critical questions pertaining to Natural Farming. However, at the same time, it also opens new vistas for research with many key researchable questions which need to be systematically investigated to understand the causality and long-term impact of Natural Farming. The secondary data regarding agricultural status of the districts was collected through document review and through the websites such as Science direct, Springer, Scopus, World Bank, etc.

Conclusions

Thus from a policy perspective, there is a need for public and private initiative. On several fronts-increased investment in resource management, research and extension, The shift from chemical agriculture to nature farming systems requires a change in the farmers attitude and philosophy of life. It requires changes in his life style, consumption pattern, and value orientation. But it will take more than this. Hence, the pronouncement 'turn waste into useful products' was a necessary survival strategy. It mentions that Natural Farming may not be yield enhancing but helped in improving farmers' income by reducing cost of cultivation, and attracting better product price. It improved significantly owing to less input cost and attracting premium price for chemical-free produce. Thus the paper put forward suggestions like natural farming as an alternative option for the producers & the consumers for chemical-free produce. (<https://naarm.org>.)

Suggestions and Recommendations

1. The farmers should be provided specific information about Natural Farming
2. Government has to provide scientific information in less cost to farmers.
3. Need of research institution for the research of nature Farming.
4. Need of organize conferences, workshops and study tours to farmers on Natural Farming.

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