



A STUDY ON BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF ORGANIC FARMING AMONG MEDIUM FARMERS (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RANIPET DISTRICT)

Ms. Princy Josee.M.M

Ph.D. (Full time Scholar) Department of Commerce, Nirmala College for women, Coimbatore.

Abstract

Agricultural development policy for developing countries needs to focus on increasing the productivity of the land under cultivation, with lower costs; higher efficiency of products with little or no damage to both humans and the environment. Thus, there is a degree for organic farming developed products. The objective of the study is to study the benefits and challenges faced by medium scale farmers on organic farming. The data was collected from 100 respondents. The main aim of this paper is to have knowledge on how farmers find difficult in bringing their produce to market and challenges they face in farming. The findings of the study are there is no significant relationship with government support and thus farmers do not get actual return or profit for the investment made. The tools used for the analysis and interpretation are percentage analysis and spearman's rank correlation of coefficient. There is a positive impact that organic farming is not more profitable than conventional farming.

Keywords: *Agriculture, Organic Farming, Production, Market Stability.*

Introduction

In agricultural Census, the operational holdings are categorized medium farmers as those who own 2-4 hectares. Medium farmers are individuals that solely grow food for their personal consumption and have little financial resources. They may labour on their own property or on land owned by major farms. Usually to gain a good return on their investment, farmers may use chemical fertilizers and yield crops as soon as possible, but however they elected to yield organically using only natural fertilizers and manure with little hope of a return on their investment. Since selling to markets takes a long time, try to sell their goods to the nearest merchant for a reduced price. Organic farming is a societal need; it is not only from the consumer's perspective but also from a farmer point of view. For the transformation of rural agriculture into a well sustainable agriculture, organic farming might become a panacea which can build a plinth for sustainable agriculture and reimburse conversion cost and maintain the sustainability of soil.

Objectives of the Study

- To study the opinion of the respondents towards organic farming.
- To study the benefits and challenges of organic farming towards medium farmers.

Statement of Problem

There is a developing significance on health benefits as people are getting cognizant about the food. Thus, there is a degree for organic farming developed products. Prior people used to expend quality local vegetables, heartbeats and organic products. As cities become increasingly urbanized and the population grows, the majority of agricultural land is converted into massive structures utilized for housing infrastructure or industrialization. Climate change has an impact on agriculture as well. Higher temperatures, as well as the recent pandemic crisis, have lowered crop output. The government's support and encouragement are insufficient to encourage farmers to continue farming since the revenues from farming are insufficient to enable their families to cope and live a normal life. As a result, the researcher

attempted to investigate “**A Study On Benefits And Challenges Of Organic Farming Among Medium Farmers With Special Reference To Ranipet District**” Farmers in the Ranipet district do not obtain a return on their investment since supply of yield is inefficient. Farmers have a tough time transporting crops grown on their property. They are primarily reliant on middlemen. Because getting to the market takes a long time, attempt to sell it to the nearby stores for cheap price. Despite cheaper costs and lesser productivity, farmers in the Ranipet region strive to maximize organic agricultural yields.

Need of the Study

Organic farming helps all human to consume good and healthy intakes without any chemical mix. Adding pesticides and fertilizers are totally in hands of one who cultivate. Farmers invest everything what they have in hand in cultivation of crops, so, only if they get returns for their investment will be motivational for them to harvest more organically. Before using farm land for other purpose of construction must think farming is important to live. Less industrialization more farming. Marketing should be increased with reasonable cost of yield and production. Greenery gives more pleasure and it's good to breathe good air. It's getting harder to get government assistance with finances and knowledge regarding organic farming. Farmers should stop believing that using chemical fertilizers enhances taste. Farmers must have the bravery to produce crops organically, and they must also have the support of their environment and surroundings.

Review of Literature

Saswat Kumar Pani, Damodar Jena (2020)¹, *Agricultural Marketing in India: A review on Challenges and Prospectus*, the main aim of this paper is it explains the situation of agricultural marketing in India with their challenges and prospects of marginal and small farmers. Their findings are agricultural marketing is more efficient with non- existence of middlemen and it also added that government initiative to protect farmers interest is laudable. Data is collected as whole percentage GDP of small and marginal farmers. The analysis shows a positive impact.

Joben K. Antony (2019)², *the economics of organic farming in Wayanad district of Kerala*, the purpose of organic agriculture is to help the environment become more sustainable. The research is based on original data obtained from 362 organic farmers and 50 non-organic farmers who were surveyed. The disparities in profitability across farms are also examined. To analyses the data, the study use both descriptive statistics and econometric methods. Organic farming is more cost-effective than non-organic farming, according to the study's conclusions.

Research Methodology

Source of data

- **Primary data** : The primary data were collected based on the well-structured questionnaire from medium farmers and through Google form.
- **Secondary data** : The secondary data for the study have been collected from books, articles, magazines and websites.

Sampling Technique :The sampling techniques used for this study is simple random sampling.

Sampling Size :The sample size was collected from 100 respondents.

Area of study :The study was conducted in Ranipet District only.

Tools used for the study

- Karl Pearson Correlation Co-efficient
- Chi-Square Test

Analysis and Interpretation

1. Karl Pearson Correlation Co-Efficient

Table 1, Correlation Between Total Land Owned and Challenges Faced By Farmers

Pearson correlation Coefficient			Government support	Organic yield is very low	Use of chemical fertilizers improves taste	Organic products are healthier	Obtaining information about organic farming is difficult	Organic farming is more profitable than conventional farming
Pearson	Total land Owned	Correlation Coefficient	0.064	-0.017	-0.129	-0.196	-0.205*	0.181
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.527	0.870	0.201	0.050	0.041	0.072
		N	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that, the Karl Pearson’s Correlation Coefficient is +1 (0.064, 0.181), indicates positive correlation between total land owned and challenges faced like government support and organic farming is more profitable than conventional farming, this indicates that the variables are moving in the same direction and also there is -1 (-0.017, -0.129, -0.196, -0.205), indicates negative correlation between challenges faced like organic yield is very low, use of chemical fertilizers improves taste, organic products are healthier and obtaining information about organic farming is difficult, this indicates that the variables are moving in opposite direction.

Table 2, Correlation Between Experience and Challenges Faced

Pearson correlation Coefficient			Government support	Organic yield is very low	Use of chemical fertilizers improves taste	Organic products are healthier	Obtaining information about organic farming is difficult	Organic farming is more profitable than conventional farming
Pearson	Experience	Correlation Coefficient	0.133	0.100	0.087	0.072	0.098	-0.095
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.188	0.324	0.390	0.476	0.331	0.346
		N	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that, the Karl Pearson's Correlation is +1(0.133, 0.100, 0.087, 0.072, 0.098) indicates positive correlation between experience in farming and challenges faced in organic farming like Government support, organic yield, use of chemical fertilizers improves taste, organic products are healthier and obtaining information about organic farming is difficult, this indicates that the variables are moving in the same direction and also there is negative correlation -1 (-0.095) between challenges like organic farming is more profitable than conventional farming, this indicates that variables are moving in the opposite direction.

Chi-square test

Table – 3, Comparison Between Ages with Challenges Faced in Organic Farming

H₀: There is no significant relationship between ages with challenges faced in organic farming

Factors	Calculated Value	D.F	P Value
Government support	21.381 ^a	12	0.045
Organic yield is very low	11.703 ^a	12	0.470
Use of chemical fertilizers improves taste	9.613 ^a	12	0.650
Organic products are healthier	8.090 ^a	12	0.778
Obtaining information about organic farming is difficult	11.886 ^a	12	0.455
Organic farming is more profitable than conventional farming	16.140 ^a	12	0.185

Source: Primary Data

- The P-Value is more than 5% level of significant for all the factors, so the null hypothesis is accepted except for the factor government support.
- It is concluded that, there is no significant relationship between ages with level of satisfaction of organic farming except for factor government support.

Table – 4, Comparison Between Kinds of Fertilizers with Total Land Owned By Farmers

H₀: There is no significant relationship between kinds of fertilizers with total land owned by farmers.

Factors	Calculated Value	D.F	P Value
Kinds of fertilizers	2.698 ^a	3	0.441

Source: Primary Data

The P-Value for the factor is more than 5% level of significant, so the null hypothesis is accepted. It is concluded that, there is no significant relationship between kinds of fertilizers with total land owned.

Findings

1. Findings From Karl Pearson Coefficient of Correlation

- The Karl Pearson's Correlation Coefficient is +1 (0.064, 0.181), indicates positive correlation between total land owned and challenges like government support and organic farming is not

more profitable than conventional farming, this indicates that the variables are moving in the same direction.

- The Karl Pearson's Correlation is +1 (0.133, 0.100, 0.087, 0.072, 0.098) indicates positive correlation between experience in farming and challenges faced in organic farming like government support, organic yield, use of chemical fertilizers improves taste, organic products are healthier and obtaining information about organic farming is difficult, this indicates that the variables are moving in the same direction.

2. Findings from chi-square test

- There is a significant relationship between age with challenges of organic farming only for the factor of government support.
- There is no significant relationship between total lands owned with kind of fertilizers.

Conclusion

The study concludes that most of the respondents use organic fertilizers. Due to less transportation facility the farmers have no option than to sell their products to nearest retailers. Most of the farmers own 0 -5 hectares of land and they fall in medium category. They produce rice, wheat and maize in large and secondly they harvest vegetables varieties most. A small initiative by local farmers in Ranipet district created a great change in other villages located in the district. There is a level of significance in the factor of government support. On the whole, there should be an increase in the flow of funds by the government and more facilities should be provided. The focus is now more on the quality of the product. A proper intermediary and the best price to be given for their product and hard work. Some suggestions were made based on the study's findings and discussions with organic farmers, such as how organic farmers in the surrounding areas may band together to create an organisation to promote their agricultural produce.

References

1. Saswat Kumar Pani, Damodar Jena – (2020) “*Agricultural Marketing in India: A review on Challenges and Prospectus*” ISSN- 2367-0075, VOL 7, ISSUE 11, 2020.
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