

A Study on Women's Participation in organic Farming with Reference to Agateeswaram Taluk in Kanniyakumari District

Dr. B. Felix Francy

Assistant Professor of Commerce, St. John's College, Palayamkottai.Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu

ABSTRACT

Organic farming methods are native to India as traditional methods, crops and livestock have been reared together and even today also. The adverse effects of modern agriculture misuse by the agricultural technology. They are overuse of agrochemicals in gross violation of the recommendation of government agriculture officials, research institutions resulting appearance of pesticide residues in agricultural produce. At present government to motivated to do the organic farming is started from school level in order to they are turned to do traditional agriculture methods might be saved. This paper reflects the notion of women's participation, empowerment and food security among women farmers in Agateeswaram taluk in Kanniyakumari district. . This article based on the primary data, highlights the role of women farmers in the wake of their efforts at establishing socio-economic status in connection with local agricultural land, production of agro products and its marketing.

Key words: uses of organic farming, methods of organic farming, and problems and prospects of women participation of organic farming.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Organic farming is soil fertility for plant growth. It develops the physical , chemical and biological properties of the soil and by doing so it enriches the nutrients in the soil. Organic farmers used the following:

- Compost
- Poultry manure
- Green manure
- Crop residue
- Panchakavya
- Muligai medicine
- Herbal pestiside
- Eco cycle motivated
- Vermichilli compost

Organic farming is an integrated agriculture farming system that strives for sustainability, the enhancement of soil fertility and biological diversity whilst, with rare exceptions, prohibiting synthetic pesticides, antibiotics, synthetic fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, and growth hormones. Organic farming by itself, although it offers great opportunities for women, does not automatically lead to more equality or empowerment.

The key issues of emerging in organic farming include: Less yield, soil fertility enhancement, and integration of livestock, certification constraints, Factors related to ecology, marketing of producer and policy support. It has been argued that organic farming is productive and sustainable, but there is a need for strong support to it in the form of government subsidies, agricultural extension services and research to enhance production scientifically.

WOMEN ORGANIC FARMERS

Generally these agriculture activities bring out many Women organic farmers, to the light. Women farmers should take part in the decision making process and its development. Women were interested to have healthy food in their home menu and take care of their family. Organic farming have women as leading role like SHGs, Mahila, Vivekandakendra Sangam, Green Foundations , and Rural Uplift Centre. Organic farming is less expensive.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- (i) To understand the uses of organic farming in India .
- (ii) To study the factors adoption of women organic farmers in Agateeswaram Taluk.
- (iii) To analyses the problems and suggestions of women organic farmers in Agateeswaram Taluk.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

This study was based on primary and secondary data. primary data has been collected through well structured questionnaire at agateeswaram taluk in kanniyakumari district, thru stratified random sampling. The research design has been made in descriptive nature and the quantitative nature. The secondary data collected about Women organic farming from national and international published sources like the websites, International Federation of Organic Farming Movements (IFOAM), Journals, magazines, Research thesis, Articles, , books and periodicals’ etc., Microsoft excel have been used to analyse and interpret the data. Classification, tabulation, percentage method and mean square method have been used for this study.

SAMPLE DESIGN

This study has been conducted in women organic farmers in Agateeswaram Taluk. The total population of the city is 3, 50,000 approximately. Only 2,000 women farmers have received organic training, which is conducted by government and non-government organization in Agateeswaram Taluk. The researchers have considered every type of respondents. A total number of sampling size was 50 for the analysis

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table-1.1

There are so many factors determine the socio economic status of women organic farmers in the study area like age, marital status, education, income mode of organic farming and experience. The following table shows the demographic details of the respondents by using percentage method.

Classification	Factors	Frequency	Percent
	20-35	6	12
	35-45	15	30
Age	45-55	12	24
	55-65	10	20
	Above 60	7	14
	Total	50	100
Marital status	Married	40	80
	Unmarried	10	20
	Total	50	100
Education	Below SSLC	12	24
	HSC	21	42
	Graduate	10	20
	Professionalist	7	14
	Total	50	100

	Below 10,000	12	24
Income (Rs)	10,000-20,000	11	22
	20,000-30,000	20	40
	Above 30,000	7	14
	Total	50	100
Mode of Organic farming	Full time	33	66
	Past time	17	34
	Total	50	100
Experience	Years		
	Less than 5	19	38
	5-7	14	28
	7-10	10	20
	Above 10	07	14
	Total	50	100

Source: Primary data.

It is very clear from the above table shows that 30 percent of the respondents belong to the age group between 35-45 years, 80 percent of the respondents were married, 42 percent of the respondents were completed their school studies, 40 percent of the respondents have earned income of Rs.20,000-30,000 per month, 66 percent of the respondents are doing organic farming as full time basis, and 38 percent of the respondents had experiences below 5 years.

Table-1.2: Kinds of the Products cultivated under organic Farming

Categories	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Very Poor	Poor	Mean	Rank
Weights	5	4	3	2	1		
Paddy	7 (35)	8 (32)	7 (21)	13 (26)	15	25.8	VII
Fruits (Banana)	10 (50)	14 (56)	8 (32)	8 (16)	10	32.8	II
Vegetables & Spinach	8 (40)	9 (36)	7 (21)	9 (18)	17	26.4	VI
Coconut	10 (50)	15 (60)	12 (36)	7 (14)	6	38.2	I
Flowers	8 (40)	16 (64)	11 (33)	7 (14)	8	31.8	III
Tapioco	9 (45)	10 (40)	10 (30)	12 (24)	9	29.6	IV
Others	5 (25)	13 (52)	12 (36)	15 (30)	5	29.6	IV

Source: Primary data.

From the above table, Most of the women organic farmers are preferred to coconut cultivation has received first rank (M=38.2), followed by second rank towards Fruits (Banana) cultivation (M=32.8), third rank towards flowers cultivation (M=31.8), fourth rank towards Tapioco cultivation (M=29.6), sixth rank towards vegetables and spinach cultivation (M=26.4), and finally the seventh ranks for paddy cultivation (M=25.8).

Table-1.3: Problems in organic farming cultivation

Categories	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Very Poor	Poor	Mean	Rank
Weights	5	4	3	2	1		
Lack of inputs	10 (50)	17 (68)	8 (24)	8 (16)	7 (7)	33	II
Scarcity of water irrigation	7 (35)	12 (48)	21 (63)	4 (8)	6 (6)	32	VI
Lack of quality training	9 (45)	16 (64)	8 (24)	7 (14)	10 (10)	31.4	V
Marketing	10 (50)	20 (80)	7 (21)	6 (12)	7 (7)	34	I
Greater input cost	12 (60)	15 (60)	6 (18)	7 (14)	10 (10)	32.4	III
Low yields	8 (40)	18 (72)	10 (30)	5 (10)	9 (9)	32.2	IV
Labour cost	8 (40)	9 (36)	15 (45)	8 (16)	10 (10)	29.4	VII

Source: Primary data.

From the above table we can find that the women organic farmers faces seven problems while cultivation , such as low yields, labour cost, greater input cost, marketing, lack of quality training, scarcity of water irrigation, and lack of inputs, Most of the women organic farmers feel that marketing their products has first rank (M=34), followed by second rank towards lack of inputs, (M=33), third rank towards greater input cost, (M=32.4), fourth rank towards low yields, (M=32.2), fifth rank towards lack of quality training, (M=31.4), sixth rank towards scarcity of water irrigation, (M=32), and finally the seventh ranks for labour cost (M=29.4).

Table-1.4: Problems in Marketing of organic products

Categories	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Very Poor	Poor	Mean	Rank
Weights	5	4	3	2	1		
Lack of government support	11 (55)	9 (36)	9 (18)	8 (16)	13 (13)	27.6	VI
Transportation	16 (80)	17 (68)	7 (21)	4 (8)	6 (6)	36.6	I
Lack of Consumer awarness	13 (65)	15 (60)	10 (30)	5 (10)	7 (7)	34.4	II
Shortage of Bio mass	9 (45)	12 (48)	14 (42)	7 (14)	8 (8)	31.4	IV
Lack of finance	10 (50)	16 (64)	10 (30)	0 (0)	14 (14)	31.6	III
Others	12 (60)	11 (44)	8 (24)	8 (16)	11 (11)	31	V

Source: Primary data.

From the above table we can find that the women organic farmers faces six problems while marketing their products, such as Lack of government support, Transportation, lack of consumer awareness, shortage of Bio-mass, lack of finance and others. It is clear that first rank was received for transportation (M=36.6), followed by second rank towards lack of consumer awareness (M=34.4), third rank towards lack of finance (M=31.6), fourth rank towards shortage of Bio-mass (M=31.4), fifth rank towards others (grading/commission) (M=31), and finally sixth rank towards Lack of government support (M=27.6).

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE STUDY

- 100 percent of the respondents are literate, they can easily adopt to acquire new technology and know the innovative methods
- It was discovered that majority of the respondents have used cow dung, and individually prepared panchakavya.
- Analysis of employment details shows that 66 percent of the women organic farmers as full time basis.
- Majority of the respondents are interested to have the organic farming are satisfied.

SUGGESTIONS

- I. Separate markets can be made solely for Organic products with facilities like grading, processing and value addition so that traders could buy goods from certified organic producers and on the other hand, the cultivators could earn a nominal price for their product.
- II. Food festivals and certain consumer awareness programs can be held with the theme of spreading the goodness of organic products. Through which the demand for organic goods can be increased.
- III. By focusing on farming with the traditional variety of seeds and breeding of organic seed varieties, traditional farming methods could be brought to life and might be collaborated with the modern applications.

CONCLUSION

Kanyakumari district has a good geographical feature which is more suitable organic farming cultivation. It has the good soil, climate and topographic factors that make it more suitable for the cultivation of coconut trees. At the same time, most organic farmers are struggling due to poor policy measures, rising input costs and limited market, Organic agriculture dramatically reduces the use of chemosynthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Instead it allows the laws of nature to increase agricultural yields. Organic agriculture adheres to globally accepted principle, which is implemented within the local, socio-economic, climatic and cultural settings.

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