

Indian Economy Development & Challenges

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11.

Organic Farming Myths and Feasibility

Meenu Garg

Organic farming has been in practice in India since thousands of years. The great Indian culture believed in the essence of nature. India was one of the most prosperous countries in the world till British ruled it. In traditional India, agriculture was practised using organic techniques where the fertilisers, pesticides, etc. were obtained from plant and animal products. The cow provided milk in addition to bullocks for farming and dung to be used as fertilisers. During the 1970s due to increase in population and droughts led to severe food scarcity. As a result, government was forced to import food grains from foreign countries. Increased production was the dire need of country. The Green Revolution led by MS Swaminathan got the problem of food scarcity solved. High breed seeds were introduced. Chemical fertilisers were replaced with natural and organic fertilisers. Large chemical factories such as Rashtriya Chemical Fertilisers were established. India is agriculture-based state and contributed a big quantity to buffer stock.

Organic agriculture is best known as a method of agriculture since thousands of years where no synthetic fertilisers and pesticides are used. The emphasis on organic agriculture is on using inputs in a way which encourages the biological processes of available nutrients and defence against pests, i.e., the resource "nature" is manipulated to encourage processes which helps to raise and maintain farm productivity. According to United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO), organic farming is a holistic production system of crops that avoids the use of synthetic and chemical inputs, like fertilisers, pesticides, growth regulators. Organic farming system depends mainly on crop rotation, crop residues, animal