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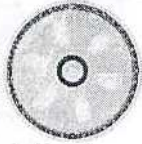
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Quality Issues for Sustainable Agriculture

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Abstract

Agriculture has been addressing the food and nutritional requirements of mankind since time immemorial. Over the ages, agricultural practices have undergone progressive changes to meet the needs of people from time to time. In the recent past, a holistic approach in the form of sustainable agriculture has evolved with a focus on meeting the needs of present and future generations while ensuring economic prosperity, ecological health, and socio-economic equity. The global shift towards sustainable agriculture and food quality drives substantial advancements in resource optimization and environmental protection. In the present article, an attempt has been made to address the quality concerns in agriculture in developing nations with an impetus to make it sustainable.

Disciplinary: Food Quality, Agriculture, Agriculture Economics

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1 Introduction

The use of intensive agriculture practices in developed countries led to a manifold increase in food production for decades and hence the world has witnessed the corporate model of agriculture as a big success. But in the case of developing countries, the agriculture sector is facing a plethora of problems such as small holdings, low levels of farm incomes, underdeveloped rural infrastructure, large-scale unemployment, food security concerns, farmer suicides, deterioration of health and depletion of natural resources due to excessive use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides, increased frequency of natural disasters due to climate change and numerous other region-specific problems. Industrial and service sectors have gotten maximum attention whereas the agriculture sector in the majority of developing nations has not flourished in an optimum and sustainable manner. With millions of farmers being major producers as well as consumers, there is

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Volume-I

Editors

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Organic Agriculture in India: Some Issues and Implications

Kushwinder Kaur and Kuldip Kaur

SECTION I

Introduction

All over the world, the sufferings brought about by excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, in the form of depletion of soil fertility, lowering down of water table, loss of biodiversity, health hazards to people at large, have compelled the environmentalists, scientists, policy-makers and society in general to go back to the natural ways of growing food. Presently, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as set by the UN constitute all the major environmental issues demanding immediate attention so as to save and maintain the planet as a liveable place. Organic agriculture has a pivotal role to play in addressing the major environmental problems as mentioned in SDGs and it can go a long way to achieve these targets.

Given the benefits and scope of organic produce, Indian farmers have the willingness to switch over to it but the complex issues involved in standardisation, certification and labelling of organic