
A LEGAL EXPLORATION OF THE PROMOTION OF ORGANIC FARMING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE: A JURISPRUDENTIAL ASSESSMENT

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ABSTRACT

Our Indian Philosophy states that, ‘food’ is appraised as a bestowal from our divine creator, which bequeaths us with a vindication to treat food with appropriate respect. Our modern way of living has fundamentally altered and the old ideas surrounding food in our society. Given the demands of global industrialization, urbanization, and cultural homogenization, there is a good chance that traditional food knowledge will disappear from homes and communities and be replaced by new food systems and cultures. Due to the presence of heavy metals, hormones, antibiotic residue, increased pesticide residue, more nitrate, genetically modified organisms, foods grown normally now have extremely detrimental health impacts. Because of the potential health benefits and concerns about food safety, there has been a surge in demand for organically farmed foods in recent decades as people search for safer food. The production of organic food is characterised by its cultivation without the use of artificial pesticides and fertilizers, and its dietary and health benefits are driving up its appeal. In addition to having a larger socioeconomic influence on a country, organic farming preserves the environment. India has made significant progress in organic agriculture and is currently among the world’s top producers of organic food, despite having lagged behind other countries in the adoption of this practice for a variety of reasons. Thus, the highlight of this paper will be how, by encouraging the actual practice of organic farming, it greatly improves the health of a country like India.

Keywords: Food, Organic Farming, Pesticides, Agriculture, Health.

INTRODUCTION:

As citizens' awareness on environmental sustainability and for health benefits organic farming is vogue in India in the recent years. The British agronomist Lord Northbourne first used the term "Organic farming" in his 1940 book "Look to the Land".¹ The Indian authority has come in defense to support organic agriculture through a number of projects, campaigns and policies, building on the country's long well-organized heritage of organic farming. They have taken initiatives in reducing the uses of industrial pesticides and genetically modified organisms (GMOS), rotating crops, and utilizing natural fertilizers are some important factors.² But issues like becoming certified, finding a market for organic produce, and setting appropriate and reasonable prices for it still remain. The increased demand for organic products both domestically and internationally is propelling the growth of India's organic farming sector overall. There are also other artificial additives. Rather, it depends on organic methods and procedures to guarantee wholesome agricultural development and animal welfare. In addition to providing high-quality, chemical-free food, organic farming places a priority on soil health, biodiversity and ecosystem preservation. There are numerous types of Organic farming in India, namely they are, i) crop-based organic farming, ii) Livestock-Based organic farming, iii) Mixed organic farming, iv) Traditional farming practices, v) Zero Budget Natural FARMING (ZBNF), vi) Organic Horticulture. There are both benefits and obstacles of organic farming in diverse India. Organic farming is smoothly gliding in India because of the climate. The major advantages of Organic Farming are the environmental benefits, as it contains Carbon Sequestration through healthier soil etc. There are health benefits too as all the organic foods are free from detrimental synthetic pesticides. It includes higher nutritional value of food. The taste and quality of these raw materials are enriched with nutrition due to the absence of chemical formulations, even the taste is much superior than artificial sustenance. Organic farming strengthens fertility of the soil and overall ecosystems, it saves up natural resources, It mostly consists of less energy-intensive techniques, still the utmost benefit of organic farming is to support to the local communities, which helps in the growth of economy. In the age of poverty, it also takes a stand in reducing unemployment in India. The term 'Traditional knowledge' describes the skills, inventions, customs and their practices that are indigenous. It

¹ John Paull, Lord Northbourne, the man who invented organic farming, a biography (Feb. 15, 2024, 4:05pm) <https://orgprints.org/id/eprint/26547/12/26547.pdf#:~:text=His%201940%20book%20Look%20to%20the%20Land%20is,was%20a%20turning%20point%20in%20his%20own%20life.>

² Judith L. Fridovich-Keil et al, genetically modified organism (Feb.15, 2024, 4:10pm) <https://www.britannica.com/science/genetically-modified-organism>

covers a broad range of topics, such as stewardship of environment, spirituality, medicine and agriculture and all the groups are interrelated. Globalization, climate change and biodiversity loss are some of the issues that are posing an increasing threat to it. Respect and value of the traditional knowledge is essential to maintain cultural diversity and endorsing of sustainable development. The traditional practice of organic farming is passed through generations in every corner of India, with their very own flavors. Since laying the cornerstone of civilization, Indians were ahead in the segment of farming. There were many key aspects of traditional organic farming in India, which includes Crop Rotation, prominent Mixed Cropping, long way practiced Organic Manure and compost, usage of biofertilizers and microbial inoculants, water management, seed saving and heirloom varieties, along with the other aspects including conservation agriculture, organic livestock integration, non-chemical weed control, local and indigenous knowledge etc. Organic farming has helped India and Indian culture to hold a position in the World Economy, it eventually brought India's international recognition. India and its knowledge over Organic farming have influenced other regimes from ages. As per the World statistics, India is currently holding the 6th rank in terms of World's Organic Agricultural Land but India is striving for the better rank³. But there are also many disadvantages in the world of organic farming in India, the namely drawbacks are lower yields, Higher expenses (both production cost and consumer cost), low management of pest and disease, transition period. The education about Organic Farming and awareness lack in many farmers, which is a critical challenge.⁴ Organic produce often faces challenges in distribution and market access, as there is a need for organized supply chains and awareness about commodities among the consumers. Obtaining organic certification can be a bureaucratic and time-consuming process for farmers, particularly smallholders. The GI Tag (Geographical Indication) is immensely essential when it comes to Organic Farming and Production. The recognition the tag brings out for a local product is perhaps the best path to promote it in a Worldwide basis. Promotion and preservation are crucial for the benefit on organic farming, without promotion and consumers there are no significant point of production. According to the reports there are over 400 products in India, which have been recognized by the GI Tags.⁵ However, there are many more products in India, which deserves to be awarded with the GI Tag.

³ India's Position in World Agriculture during 2016 (Feb.15, 2024, 4:20pm)

https://www.mofpi.gov.in/sites/default/files/20._oct_19_indias_position_in_world_agriculture_in_2016.pdf

⁴ Mr M Elayaraj, Organic farming in India: Benefits and Challenges (Feb.15, 2024, 4:35PM)

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348351753_Organic_farming_in_India_Benefits_and_Challenges

⁵ REGISTRATION DETAILS OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (Feb.15, 2024, 4:30PM)

https://ipindia.gov.in/writereaddata/Portal/Images/pdf/State_wise_Registered_Geographical_Indications.pdf

Organic farming in India represents a sustainable approach that resonates with current days. For the production and preservation, the understanding of ecosystem is utmost important, even to spread environmental awareness. With practices deeply rooted in our tradition, which are still effective in the World of modern Agricultural Sciences. India is rapidly growing to be the most successful country in the World but for that it requires safer food production and preservation, patience, modern technologies, less pesticides, initiatives, endorsements⁶ which are only possible by welcoming flexibility and ecological knowledge. Organic farming and Agriculture can ensure a promising future for India.

ANALYSIS PURPOSE ALONG WITH ITS STRATEGY:

The momentousness of Organic Farming in Indian history is beyond question and it is persuasive in all the aspect like Indian economy, Indian civilization, Indian lifestyle, Clothing style etc. With thousands of years of history, Organic Farming has a rich and varied past in India. Analyzing its development and importance, beginning with:

1. Ancient Civilization: Composting and crop rotation were two examples of the natural agricultural practices used by cultures including the Indians, Greeks, Romans, and Chinese. Organic methods, in which insecticides and fertilizers were made from plant and animal materials, were the backbone of the agricultural sector in old India
2. 19th Century: Organic Farming practices of India in the 1920s and 1930s were strongly impacted by the composting and soil health research conducted by Sir Albert Howard had a immense impact on organic farming. In India, his studies became popular at this time and the book named "The Agriculture Testament" highlights an account of his experiences.
3. Mid-20th Century Popularity: Organic farming became more well-known by the middle of the 20th century as a result of grassroots movements and educational campaigns. Synthetic insecticides and fertilizers were becoming increasingly used around this time. Still, trailblazer namely Sir Albert Howard emphasized the value of organic practices.
4. Biodynamic Farming and Rodale Institute: Biodynamic farming was first popularized in the early 1900s by Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner, who also established the current organic

⁶ Mr M Elayaraj, Organic farming in India: Benefits and Challenges (Feb.15, 2024 4:35PM) https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348351753_Organic_farming_in_India_Benefits_and_Challenges

farming movement. To promote the advantages of organic farming, J.J. Rodale established the Rodale Institute in the 1930s in the United States. As a result of worries about the effects industrial agriculture was having on the environment and human health, the movement gained strength all over the World including India.

5. 21st Century Growth: Organic farming became a global movement at this point, and there is a growing market for organic goods. India is among the many nations that have set up certification schemes to control and advance organic agricultural methods, and they are still growing towards ever increasing perfection.

Organic and natural farming methods were employed by ancient Indian farmers to nurture their land. They depended on customary wisdom that had been handed down over the ages. The Rigveda (Forces of Nature), the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and the Kautilya Arthashastra are just a few of the ancient scriptures that mention different organic inputs and practices. In ancient India, organic farming methods were employed throughout the entire agricultural process. Plant and animal products were used to make fertilizers and insecticides.

Organic farming was the backbone of the great Indian civilization, which was one of the wealthiest nations until these techniques were disturbed by British rule, furthermore these days the Indian Culture is looking forward on preserving those old ancient techniques. Given that a person needs food, clothing, and a roof to survive, organic farming is crucial to a nation's infrastructure. The abandoning of traditional knowledge is not an excuse, as agriculture plays a vital role in a nation's economy and social life. So that it can be passed on to future generations without breaking the chain, and the conversation about organic farming should include individuals of all ages. With the advent of GI Tags and their marketing, food production is now receiving more recognition than before. In order to achieve food grain self-sufficiency, India embraced the new green revolution strategy in the late 1960s. A focus on milk, fisheries, poultry, vegetables, and fruits was placed on the next phase of the agricultural sector's diversification. There were no quick reforms put into place during the fourth phase, which examined how the 1991 reforms affected agriculture (Tripathi & Prasad, 2009).⁷ 67% of India's population and 55% of its labour force are employed in agriculture and associated fields. As the Nation is heavily dependent on agriculture, So the 30% of overall income in India that

⁷ Amarnath Tripathi et al, Agricultural Development in India since Independence: A Study on Progress, Performance, and Determinants (Feb.15,2024, 4:32PM), <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1007&context=jekem>

comes from agriculture goes towards meeting the country's basic requirements. Numerous rural as well as farming groups around India have been practicing organic farming for thousands of years, according to research. This is an indigenous technique from India and Traditional farming, which uses chemical pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, genetic modification techniques, and other practices, has become more popular as a result of the introduction of modern farming methods and population growth.⁸ Since organic farming has a significant positive impact on soil health and eliminates the need for chemical pesticides, there is a rapidly growing demand for organically cultivated produce, even in developing nations like India.⁹ There is a huge potential for income production from organic farming (Bhardwaj and Dhiman, 2019). India's soil contains a variety of naturally occurring organic nutrient supplies that support organic farming (Adolph and Butterworth, 2002; Reddy, 2010; Deshmukh and Babar, 2015).¹⁰ Based on their knowledge, in-depth observation, tenacity, and methods for preserving soil fertility and controlling pests, Indian traditional farmers have a profound understanding of soil fertility and its relationship to organic output and the country's subsequent economic progress and It's amazing how far organic farming has come. India now ranks ninth in the world with 1.78 million hectares of organic agricultural land in 2017 (Sharma and Goyal, 2000; Adolph and Butterworth, 2002; Willer and Lernoud, 2019) and is the world's largest producer of organic food (Willer and Lernoud, 2017, 2019).¹¹

The practice of organic farming has garnered noteworthy interest in India owing to its possible health advantages, ecological durability, and socio-economic implications. Here are some tactics and ideas for India's organic farming industry:

1. Implementation of Organic Farming Policy: Policies pertaining to organic farming should be maintained and supported by the Indian government. It is recommended that these policies be implemented gradually in order to provide a seamless shift from conventional to organic techniques.¹²

⁸Suryatapa Das et al, Organic farming in India: a vision towards a healthy nation (Feb.15,2024, 4.46PM), <https://academic.oup.com/fqs/article/4/2/69/5861338>

⁹ id.

¹⁰ Id.

¹¹ id.

¹² Saniya Syed et al, Strategies to be Implemented for Promotion of Organic Production, Marketing and Export in India, (Feb 15, 2024, 5:01PM).

<https://justagriculture.in/files/newsletter/2021/november/72.%20Strategies%20to%20be%20Implemented%20for%20Promotion.pdf#:~:text=Ensure%20seed%20sovereignty%20of%20the%20farmers%20and%20the,and%20improve%20agro%20%E2%80%93%20biodiversity%20and%20undomesticated%20biodiversity.>

2. Group Approach: Urge a group of farmers in a small area to switch to organic farming methods. This method makes it easier to share knowledge, maximize resources, and manage organic farms more effectively.¹³
3. Water Conservation and Soil Health: Encourage organic methods like crop rotation, composting, and green manure to improve soil health. In order to guarantee organic agricultural irrigation that is sustainable, put conservation measures in place.¹⁴
4. Agro-Biodiversity Conservation: Encourage the preservation and enhancement of agro-biodiversity. To preserve genetic diversity and resilience, promote the growth of native and traditional crop varieties.¹⁵
5. Expanding the Capacity: Train farmers, extension agents, and other agencies in the field and provide capacity-building activities. Provide them with information on market connections, certification procedures, and organic farming methods.¹⁶
6. Seed Sovereignty: Encourage farmers to swap and store seeds. Encourage the use of native seed varieties and uphold seed sovereignty.¹⁷
7. Connectivity between markets: Bolster the connections in the market for organic produce. Establish streamlined supply networks, launch organic markets, and put farmers in direct contact with customers.¹⁸
8. Research And Findings: Make investments in the fields of organic agricultural research and innovation. Examine novel approaches, strategies for controlling pests, and practices that are climate resilient.¹⁹

¹³ id.

¹⁴ id.

¹⁵ id.

¹⁸ Saniya Syed et al, Strategies to be Implemented for Promotion of Organic Production, Marketing and Export in India, (Feb.15, 2024, 5:01PM)

<https://justagriculture.in/files/newsletter/2021/november/72.%20Strategies%20to%20be%20Implemented%20for%20Promotion.pdf#:~:text=Ensure%20seed%20sovereignty%20of%20the%20farmers%20and%20the,and%20improve%20agro%20%E2%80%93%20biodiversity%20and%20undomesticated%20biodiversity.>

¹⁹M. Manjula et al, Organic Farming in India: Catalysts that Can Help in Transition (Feb.15, 2024, 5:15PM) https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/337-full_paper-2217-1-10-20210128.pdf

9. Advocating for Policies: At the national and international levels, advocate for laws that support organic farming. Work together with international organizations and take note of successful organic agricultural models across the globe.²⁰

Organic farming can provide sustainable development, food safety, and better health outcomes for the country of India while remaining consistent with the country's traditional agricultural methods.²¹

EVOLUTION OF ORGANIC FARMING:

Greek, Roman, and Chinese civilizations are among the ancient societies from which organic farming originated and Natural agricultural practices like crop rotation, composting, and intercropping were used by these societies. They understood how decisive it was to keep the land fertile and lessen the effects of illnesses and pests. Sir Albert Howard, a British agriculturist and scientist who worked in India in the early 20th century, was one of the first supporters of organic farming. Howard noted that conventional Indian farmers maintained soil fertility and produced healthy crops by using natural methods. The idea of "the law of return," which holds that the health of the soil depends on the nutrients returned to it, emerged as a research with composting and other organic agricultural techniques. The idea of biodynamic farming was first presented by Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner in the 1920s and the foundation of biodynamic farming is anthroposophy, a philosophy that emphasizes the interdependence of all living things. In order to enhance soil fertility and plant health, biodynamic farmers employ natural preparations like compost and herbal teas.²²

The organic farming movement in the United States gained traction in the 1940s and 1950s under the leadership of J.I. Rodale and his family. In order to promote the advantages of organic farming through study and instruction, Rodale established the Rodale Institute in 1947.²³ Concerns about the effects of industrial agriculture on the environment and human health led to the growth of the organic farming movement in the 1960s. The 1962 publication of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson brought attention to the risks associated with artificial pesticides and

²⁰ Suryatapa Das et al, Organic farming in India: a vision towards a healthy nation, (Feb.15, 2024, 5:20PM) <https://academic.oup.com/fqs/article/4/2/69/5861338>

²¹ M. Manjula et al, Organic Farming in India: Catalysts that Can Help in Transition (Feb.15, 2024, 5:15PM) https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/337-full_.pdf

²² Sakshi Raj, History of Organic Farming in India (Feb.20, 2024, 8:20PM) <https://timesofagriculture.in/history-of-organic-farming/>

²³ id.

contributed to a greater understanding of environmental concerns among the general public.²⁴ Sales of organic food have been rising consistently since the late 20th century. The organic industry grew as a result of increased environmental consciousness, worries about the health effects of pesticide residues, and the usage of genetically modified (GMO) crops.

Food that is grown organically typically costs more than food that is grown conventionally. The cost of organic food can range from less than 10% less than that of conventionally grown produce to more than 100% more than that, depending on the product, the season, and supply and demand fluctuations.²⁵

ALLIANCE OF ORGANIC FARMING WITH TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE:

The promotion of organic vegetable production in India is largely attributed to traditional Indian wisdom. The ways in which sustainable agricultural techniques and this age-old wisdom interact results in –

1. Origins in Tradition: India's sustainable attitude and eco-centric management strategy are in line with the historic agricultural techniques that gave rise to organic farming.²⁶

These customs, which emphasize the value of resource conservation and harmony with the natural world, have been handed down through the generations.

2. Encouraging Sustainable Agriculture: A wealth of information about sustainable farming methods can be gained from traditional wisdom. India is trying to improve the productivity of current farming practices by fusing traditional knowledge with new technology. For hundreds of years, crop rotation has been a fundamental method of organic farming and has been shown to promote both sustainable and healthy crop production.²⁷
3. Preservation of Resources: Natural resource and biodiversity conservation are aided by the organic production methods that traditional knowledge systems support.

²⁴ Suryatapa Das et al, Organic farming in India: a vision towards a healthy nation, (Feb.20, 2024, 8:35PM) <https://academic.oup.com/fqs/article/4/2/69/5861338>

²⁵ id.

²⁶ M. Manjula et al, Organic Farming in India: Catalysts that Can Help in Transition (Feb.20, 2024, 9:15PM) https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/337-full_.pdf

²⁷ IndianFarmers Team, Organic Farming in India: The Future of Sustainable Agriculture (Feb.20, 2024, 9:39PM) <https://indianfarmers.org/organic-farming-in-india/>

Additionally, they help to lessen the agricultural sector's water and energy footprints.²⁸

4. Study and Consequences: Research on the role of traditional Indian knowledge in organic vegetable farming is still in progress. Policymakers and farmers can benefit from this research by learning about the traditional practices and beliefs that support organic farming. In order to promote sustainable agriculture in India, the objective is to incorporate traditional knowledge with modern farming methods.²⁹

A vital component of agriculture since ancient times, modern agriculture has not diminished the significance of the old Indian knowledge system. Actually, the old knowledge system may prove to be quite helpful in India's shift to organic vegetable farming.³⁰ The fundamental tenets of the traditional Indian knowledge system are sustainability and ecological balance. It emphasizes how vital it is to protect the welfare of the land, conserve water, and utilize natural resources sensibly. In the context of organic vegetable farming, the traditional knowledge system is very important because these principles align with the core ideas of organic farming. The traditional Indian knowledge system goes into considerable detail about various farming strategies, such as crop rotation, mixed cropping, and the use of organic fertilizers and pesticides. Enhancing soil fertility, controlling pests and diseases, and increasing yields are all possible with the help of these approaches for organic vegetable production. Farmers can improve the organization of their farming operations and raise their total output by using the intelligent information on weather forecasting, climate change, and traditional farming calendars that the traditional knowledge system provides. Increased food security, improved nutrition, and crop diversification could result from organic vegetable farming's use of these species and cultivars. A wide range of native species and cultivars with special dietary and medicinal qualities that are appropriate for the region are also included in the traditional knowledge system. In organic farming, these species and cultivators can be employed to increase crop diversity in the vegetable

²⁸ M. Manjula et al, Organic Farming in India: Catalysts that Can Help in Transition (Feb.20, 2024, 9:15PM) https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/337-full_.pdf

²⁹ Vandana Kumari, Role of Traditional Indian Knowledge System in Promoting Organic Vegetable Farming in India (Feb 20, 2024, 9:45PM) <https://www.ijnrd.org/papers/IJNRD2308284.pdf>

³⁰ M. Manjula et al, Organic Farming in India: Catalysts that Can Help in Transition (Feb.20, 2024, 9:15PM) https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/337-full_.pdf

department.³¹

Encapsulating, there is a great deal of hope for a greener, healthier, and more sustainable agricultural future in India with the combination of tried-and-true traditional wisdom with contemporary farming techniques. It is indisputable that traditional knowledge is important for improving organic farming, and that traditional knowledge needs to be preserved for India's benefit across all generations.

PRIME CONTROVERSIES FACED BY ORGANIC FARMING IN THE PROVINCE OF AGRICULTURE:

Organic food is expected to become more widely available and an ubiquitous presence in kitchens worldwide as health concerns gain greater awareness. Organic food is not a product in and of itself rather, people utilize it as a hygienic consideration worldwide. In the Indian context, organic food is produced using a comprehensive strategy that begins at the farm and finishes at the customer's plate. An effective plan of action, scientific planning, responsible public action, and government support can help overcome the obstacles posed by organic farming, with the source being the primary stakeholder. India saw the emergence of the Green Revolution in the early 1960s, when new and advanced farming methods were combined with the use of contemporary chemical fertilizers and improved seed management. The nation saw an increase in food grain production. As part of an integrated approach to harvesting, modern agricultural techniques employed chemical fertilizers, synthetic pesticides, herbicides, germicides, and genetically engineered (GE) seeds. Some of the major organic clusters in India takes place in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, sambalpur Badwani, Jhabua, Allirajpur, Chhindwara, Mandla, Dindori, Balaghat, Sheopur, Guna, Narsingpur, Katni and Mandsour etc.

Significant controversies to organic farming revolve around these topics:

1. Lack of knowledge: Farmers are not aware of the advantages of organic farming.
2. Marketing and Pricing: It is important to ensure that organic produce may be sold

³¹ Vandana Kumari, Role of Traditional Indian Knowledge System in Promoting Organic Vegetable Farming in India (Feb. 20, 2024, 9:45PM) <https://www.ijnrd.org/papers/IJNRD2308284.pdf>

for more money than conventional produce. Losses result from the inability to get a higher price for the produce in the early stages.

3. Lack of biomass in the soil: Low productivity is caused by the absence of vital nutrients in the soil. Soil that is rich in biomass is necessary to enhance plant uptake of nutrients.
4. Insufferable infrastructure: State governments have not yet developed a reliable system or the required guidelines to put it into practice. Each state has a relatively small number of organic certifying bodies.³²
5. High cost and lack of availability: Inputs used in conventional agricultural systems are less affordable when they are produced organically than when they are manufactured agrochemicals. Farmers can manufacture these inputs at home, but relatively few people understand the full science involved in producing organic insecticides and fertilizers through natural processes.³³
6. Absence of policy: The largest obstacle facing organic growers is the absence of a national organic policy. It is impossible to tell an organic product apart from a conventional product in the absence of regulations governing labeling standards for organic production. Because of this, there have been fraud schemes, and legitimate businesses are not receiving the premium that buyers of organic goods are prepared to pay.
7. Underdeveloped Supply Chain: Farmers in hilly areas and tribal belts find it very challenging to reach the market due to the supply chain's narrowness. Products deteriorate because there isn't enough storage or refrigerated cars. Because cross-contamination must be prevented, organic and conventional goods must be stored apart, which is not always possible in the current supply chain. Although it doesn't provide farmers with a stable market, the farmers that have direct connections to processors and retailers will be able to obtain a better price but, if they do not have

³² Krishak Jagat, 5 major challenges of Organic farmers in India (Feb.21, 2024 7:21PM) <https://www.en.krishakjagat.org/india-region/5-major-challenges-of-organic-farmers-in-india/>

³³ Krishak Jagat, 5 major challenges of Organic farmers in India (Feb.21, 2024 7:21PM) <https://www.en.krishakjagat.org/india-region/5-major-challenges-of-organic-farmers-in-india/>

the proper connections, they must rely on intermediaries and it encourages the sale of organic products through fairs and exhibits.³⁴

8. Mainstream customers Standard of quality: Because consumers are already inclined to purchase aesthetically pleasing fruits and vegetables based on factors like colour, shape, and size, organic growers face higher rates of unsaleable items with flaws. While the product may have outstanding nutrition and flavour, customers may not be willing to purchase organic items, which could result in lower sales revenue for farmers.³⁵
9. Organic certification: A lot of small farmers feel that the cost of becoming certified organic is not worth it. Some nevertheless do not meet the requirements to be labelled as organic, even though they employ techniques that are ideal for their manufacturing and surroundings. Organic farming adoption in India is typically hindered by three-year conversion stages and access to certification prices (Jitendra Pandey and Ashima Singh, 2012). This is especially true for small land holders. however, a reality of underdeveloped agricultural systems is the non-recognition of GI Tag by many local organic producers. Conversely, undeveloped agricultural systems are responsible for many organic productions' non-recognition of GI Tags. Certain products of note in India have not yet been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) label, which acknowledges their distinct attributes associated with particular geographical areas:
 - i) Similipal Kai Chutney: This delicacy represents the distinct cultural history of the area and is made by tribal groups in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha utilizing red weaver ants.
 - ii) Gucci Mushroom: Originating in Jammu and Kashmir, this product is presently in the process of obtaining a GI Tag, which will distinguish it as having a unique origin and features unique to the area. Manapparai Murukku: A tasty food from

³⁴ Harish. N, Organic Farming in India: Status, Constraints and Challenges (Feb. 21, 2024, 8:01PM) Organic_Farming_in_India_Status_Constraints_and_Ch.pdf

³⁵ id.

Tamil Nadu's Tiruchy district.³⁶

iii) Manapparai Murukku: A kind of spicy food from Tamil Nadu's Tiruchy district.³⁷

iv) Thaikkal Rattan Art: A traditional art from Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu is Thaikkal Rattan art.³⁸

v) Auhtoor Vetrilai (Betel Leaf): Cultivated in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.³⁹

vi) Sholavandan Vetrilai: Another betel leaf variety from Tamil Nadu.⁴⁰

viii) Negamam Cotton Sarees: Handwoven sarees from Negamam, Tamil Nadu.⁴¹

ix) Ooty Varkey: A popular snack from Ooty, Tamil Nadu.⁴²

x) Myladi Stone Carvings: Intricate stone carvings from Myladi, Tamil Nadu.⁴³

xi) Salem Sago (Javvarisi): Sago pearls produced in Salem, Tamil Nadu.⁴⁴

xii) Marthandam Honey: Honey sourced from Marthandam, Tamil Nadu.⁴⁵

xiii) Manamadurai Pottery: Traditional pottery from Manamadurai, Tamil Nadu.⁴⁶

³⁶ Piyush, List of GI Tag Products in India 2024, State Wise GI Tag and Its Significance (Feb.22, 2024, 8:12PM) <https://www.studyiq.com/articles/list-of-gi-tag-products-in-india/>

³⁷ Piyush, List of GI Tag Products in India 2024, State Wise GI Tag and Its Significance (Feb.22, 2024, 8:12PM) <https://www.studyiq.com/articles/list-of-gi-tag-products-in-india/>

³⁸ Piyush, List of GI Tag Products in India 2024, State Wise GI Tag and Its Significance (Feb.22, 2024, 8:12PM) <https://www.studyiq.com/articles/list-of-gi-tag-products-in-india/>

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⁴⁰ Piyush, List of GI Tag Products in India 2024, State Wise GI Tag and Its Significance (Feb.22, 2024, 8:12PM) <https://www.studyiq.com/articles/list-of-gi-tag-products-in-india/>

⁴¹ Piyush, List of GI Tag Products in India 2024, State Wise GI Tag and Its Significance (Feb.22, 2024, 8:12PM) <https://www.studyiq.com/articles/list-of-gi-tag-products-in-india/>

⁴² Piyush, List of GI Tag Products in India 2024, State Wise GI Tag and Its Significance (Feb.22, 2024, 8:12PM) <https://www.studyiq.com/articles/list-of-gi-tag-products-in-india/>

⁴³ Piyush, List of GI Tag Products in India 2024, State Wise GI Tag and Its Significance (Feb.22, 2024, 8:12PM) <https://www.studyiq.com/articles/list-of-gi-tag-products-in-india/>

⁴⁴ Piyush, List of GI Tag Products in India 2024, State Wise GI Tag and Its Significance (Feb.22, 2024, 8:12PM) <https://www.studyiq.com/articles/list-of-gi-tag-products-in-india/>

⁴⁵ Piyush, List of GI Tag Products in India 2024, State Wise GI Tag and Its Significance (Feb.22, 2024, 8:12PM) <https://www.studyiq.com/articles/list-of-gi-tag-products-in-india/>

⁴⁶ Piyush, List of GI Tag Products in India 2024, State Wise GI Tag and Its Significance (Feb.22, 2024, 8:12PM) <https://www.studyiq.com/articles/list-of-gi-tag-products-in-india/>

These regional organic productions are a testament to the skilled craftsmanship and rich cultural legacy of the places where they are produced. In addition to safeguarding their authenticity, the GI brand gives communities and artists access to new markets.⁴⁷ In addition to the concerns listed above, there are a plethora of other variables that contribute to the organic farming industry's lagging in India. These aspects should be quickly examined in order to support organic farming and the traditional knowledge associated with it in the country.

LEGAL PARAMETRES PROVIDED IN FAVOUR OF ORGANIC FARMING:

India has seen a considerable increase in interest in organic farming because of its environmentally friendly and health-conscious methods. The legislative structure that governs organic food in India results in:

1. Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) introduced these regulations in December 2017. Their objective is to establish regulations governing the quality requirements of organic products in India.

KEY PROVISIONS-

1. Jaivik Bharat Logo: This mark is required to be on organic food products in order to verify their legitimacy.

Indian Organic Integrity Database Portal: Customers can check the legitimacy of organic foods with the aid of this gateway.

Labelling and Certification: Accurate information regarding the organic status should be provided on organic food packaging. Additionally, it ought to bear certification or quality assurance marks in line with the Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS-India) or the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

Compliance to Existing Regulations: The current Food Safety and Standards

⁴⁷ Gauri Malik, GI Tag in Tamilnadu (Feb.22, 2024, 8:30PM) <https://gondwana.university/gi-tag-in-tamilnadu/>

Regulations, which address issues including labelling, packaging, food product standards, and safety guidelines, must also be followed by organic products.⁴⁸

2. **Certification Bodies:** Strict criteria for organic farming practises are provided by organisations like PGS-India, NPOP, and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). To ensure adherence to these rules, inspections are carried out on a regular basis.⁴⁹
3. **Export Regulations:** The National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), which was tailored to match Indian circumstances, was designed by APEDA in the early 2000s. It was based on the EU organic policy. The export of organic produce from India is made easier by these regulations. With the growing popularity of organic food in both production and consumption, consumers may be assured of authenticity, transparency, and well-informed choices thanks to the legal framework.
4. **Case Studies on Organic Agriculture in India:** An Integrated Watershed Development Project was initiated in the North India region (which includes Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Uttaranchal) in order to enhance production potential and promote community involvement. There is an organic or environmentally friendly farming component to the project. Unfortunately, a lack of data and concrete evidence has made the adoption of organic approaches sluggish. Through interactive seminars, trainings, and demonstrations, efforts are being made to raise awareness. There is a push to establish bio-villages, where farmers use organic methods and prioritize protecting the environment. The organic focus of Uttaranchal, which is made up of plains and mountainous districts, is on three plains districts and 10 mountainous districts. The majority of farmers in the hilly areas are marginal and impoverished.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

Organic Farming in India is an aggregation of tradition and sustainability. India's agricultural

⁴⁸S.S. Rana, India: Legal Framework Governing Organic Food In India (Feb.22, 2024, 9:08PM) <https://www.mondaq.com/india/food-and-drugs-law/684456/legal-framework-governing-organic-food-in-india>

⁴⁹ IndianFarmers Team, Organic Farming in India: The Future of Sustainable Agriculture (9:30PM) <https://indianfarmers.org/organic-farming-in-india/>

practices have been greatly impacted by its ancient wisdom and rich cultural legacy.⁵⁰ Native American knowledge systems place a strong emphasis on ecological harmony, sustainable practices, and balance with the environment. These ideas are in perfect harmony with organic farming.⁵¹ This gives us the opportunity to reflect on how important a role India's traditional knowledge system has had in advancing organic vegetable farming. This knowledge, which has been passed down through the years, places a strong emphasis on sustainable agriculture methods.⁵² In recent years, organic farming has become more and more popular as awareness of the harmful effects of artificial pesticides and fertilizers has grown. An analysis of the literature on organic farming, customs, and legislation that are linked, it is possible to ascertain the expected outcomes and future probability of organic farming in India through the use of thematic analysis of the data collected from interviews with farmers who integrate traditional techniques into their organic practices, insights on the ways that organic vegetable cultivation has been encouraged by India's traditional knowledge system. Finding the historical practices and principles that still work now. Ideas for improving sustainable agriculture that are directed towards policymakers and farmers. Traditional knowledge can be incorporated into contemporary farming methods by policymakers and it will open up fresh insights on sustainable agriculture for researchers and farmers.⁵³

CONCLUSION:

In India, organic farming not only supports sustainable agriculture but also a healthier way of life for the general public. Organic farmers are able to produce high-quality products devoid of hazardous chemicals and pesticides by using natural agricultural techniques. There is a growing trend towards organic farming in India, even if there are still obstacles in the way of the business, such as market access issues and costly certification costs. More farmers are adopting organic practices, thanks to government initiatives and support programs, while consumers are becoming more interested in purchasing organic goods. Clearly, organic farming will become more and more significant in determining the agricultural landscape of India in the future. In the end, the success of organic farming in India will depend on customer support, even while innovation and technology will continue to propel industry expansion. India's organic farming industry has expanded significantly and is now a major part of the nation's agricultural

⁵²Swarali Pednekar, Promotion of organic farming (Feb.23, 2024, 8:02PM)

<https://www.acgcaresfoundation.org/projects/organic-farming.php>

⁵³ Amit Khurana, On a tardy trail: State of organic farming in India (Feb.23, 8:31PM)

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/agriculture/on-a-tardy-trail-state-of-organic-farming-in-india-73269>

economy. Organic farming techniques have been greatly influenced by traditional agricultural knowledge, which is firmly based in sustainable ways. The goal of government programs like the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) is to encourage and assist farmers in implementing organic farming methods. Despite the many health and environmental advantages of organic farming, there are still issues. Small-scale farmers may find the certification procedure difficult at first, and they may encounter other challenges throughout the changeover phase. Although rising consumer knowledge and demand for organic products are encouraging signals, maintaining a steady market for organic produce is still a problem. Organic farming is still undergoing research and innovation, with the main goals being the development of sustainable agricultural systems, the improvement of soil health, and the optimization of practices for various agroclimatic zones. To sum up, organic farming in India is on the rise, and its advantages are becoming more widely recognized. Increased consumer demand and ongoing government backing may help organic farming methods become more widely accepted across the nation and lead to additional developments. Referencing recent publications, reports, and updates from pertinent Indian agricultural authorities is advised in order to acquire the most up-to-date and correct information.