

AWARENESS ABOUT ORGANIC FARMING -A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CUDDALORE DISTRICT.

Dr. E.sahaya ugin mary

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Nanjil Catholic College of Arts and Science Kaliyakkavilai

ABSTRACT - India is a agricultural country nearly 60% of the people are engaged in agriculture..Each and every country should give importance to agriculture. Most of the educated people depend upon government jobs. But if they concentrate with the agriculture, they can earn more income than any other jobs. In order to achieve the target due attention should be given to find out the problem faced by the cultivators and give solution to their growth and development for production and marketing. In order to generate more income and employment in rural areas, organic farming system could be practiced. In this connection there is a need to conduct awareness campaign among the farm households. NGOs and agricultural extension agencies should do this task. Search for knowledge consisting of enunciating the problem, collecting and analysing the facts and reaching certain conclusions. Making the transition to sustainable agriculture is a process. For farmers, the transition to sustainable agriculture normally requires a series of small, realistic steps. Family economics and personal goals influence how fast or how far participants can go in the transition. It is important to realise that each small decision can make a difference and contribute to advancing the entire system further on the sustainable agriculture continuum. The key to moving forward is the will to take the next step. The village wise, Farm wise, and cast wise Respondents' awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture through M.S Swaminathan research foundation, friends and relatives, Namazhuar movement ,co farmers and through agriculture extension agencies are taken in to account to know the awareness about organic farming.

Key Word: Organic Farming, Sustainable Agriculture, Respondents, Awareness, Intensive Management, Campaign.

INTRODUCTION :

Awareness should be created towards popular acceptance of organic farming system through agriculture extension programme. The farmers should be made aware of interacting components and their linkages in organic farming system. The village wise respondents, farm wise respondents and caste wise respondents awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture are through M.S Swaminathan research foundation friends and relatives, Namazhuar movement and co farmers M.S Swaminathan research foundation ,Namazhuar movement and agriculture extension agencies. For this 10 villages were selected to collect data. They are Kovilampoondi, Keelamanakudi, Moovur, Kallipadi, Pinnalur, Apalpuram,, Kumarachi, Kattukudallur, Sepakkam, and Thalanallur. Farm wise respondents' source of knowledge about organic farming and sustainable agriculture categorised by farm size. Marginal farmers, small farmers, medium farmers and large farmers. Caste wise Respondents' source of knowledge about organic farming and sustainable agriculture are categorised by

Forward caste, Backward caste, Most backward caste and scheduled caste. awareness should be created towards popular acceptance of organic farming through agricultural extension programme. The farmers should be made aware of Interacting components and their linkage in organic farming system through conducting special training programme, Management decisions should reflect not only environmental and broad social considerations, but also individual goals and lifestyle choices. Adoption of some technologies or practices that promise profitability may also require such intensive management that one's lifestyle actually deteriorates. Management decisions that promote sustainability nourish the environment, the community and the individual. The village wise, Farm wise, and cast wise Respondents' awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture through M.S Swaminathan research foundation friends and relatives. ,Namazhuar movement and co farmers and through agriculture extension agencies .Government should take necessary step to help the farmers by fulfilling their financial needs to concentrate organic cultivation.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Reviewing of the literature on the area of research is a preliminary step before attempting to plan the study. It is essential to review all the relevant material connected with the problem chosen Michael carolan(2006) social change and the adoption and the adoption of knowledge claims :Whose truth do you trust in regard to sustainable agriculture? Agricultural and human values vol 23, issue3,pages 325-339.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

It is significant to note that some of the problems may be encountered in practicing organic farming system. These includes inadequate awareness, low experience, lack of proper training. In this study, an attempt is made to examine the problems encountered in practicing organic farming system from the point of view of farmers.

OBJETIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know the awareness of farmers about organic farming and sustainable agriculture
- To exhibit village wise, farm wise and caste wise respondents' rating on awareness about organic farming.
- To suggest policy measures to enhance the rapid adoption of organic farming system in the study area.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The required data for study is collected by way of primary sources. The study was conducted by administering the questionnaire among the awareness of practicing organic farming with the help of 10 villages. The researcher selected 364 farmers. The interpretation of the data are carried out applying the statistical tools such as percentages, and chi square test al so included. Conclusion have been drawn from the results of that analysis.

RESUIT AND DISCUSSION

Awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture

Table .1 presents data on the village wise respondents' awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture. It could be noted that out of the total 364 respondents 21.15% of them are familiar with organic farming and sustainable agriculture through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation and Friends and relatives. A one third of the respondents of Kumarachi village (36.59%) and Sepakkam village (33.33%) are aware of organic farming and sustainable agriculture through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation along with Friends and relatives. Out of the total 364 respondents 20.60 % of them are familiar with organic farming and sustainable agriculture through Namazhuar movement and Co farmers. A considerable number of the respondents of Kattukudallur village (39.53%) came to know about organic farming and sustainable agriculture through Namazhuar movement and Co farmers. In this study 23.90% of the respondents are familiar with organic farming and sustainable agriculture only through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation.

Table 1

Village Wise Respondents' awareness about Organic Farming and Sustainable Agriculture

Name of village	M.S. Swaminathan research foundation and Friends and relatives	Namazhu ar movemen t and Co farmers	M.S. Swaminath an research foundation	Namazhua r movement	Agriculture extension agencies	Total
Kovilampoon di	7 (21.21)	8 (24.24)	7 (21.21)	5 (15.15)	6 (18.18)	33
Keelamanaku di	6 (15.79)	5 (13.16)	16 (42.11)	6 (15.79)	5 (13.16)	38
Moovur	5 (15.63)	6 (18.75)	6 (18.75)	8 (25.00)	7 (21.88)	32
Kallipadi	7 (19.44)	8 (22.22)	10 (27.78)	6 (16.67)	5 (13.89)	36
Pinnalur	5 (17.24)	6 (20.69)	6 (20.69)	7 (24.14)	5 (17.24)	29
Ampalpuram	9 (26.47)	5 (14.71)	5 (14.71)	8 (23.53)	7 (20.59)	34
Kumarachi	15 (36.59)	8 (19.51)	7 (17.07)	5 (12.20)	6 (14.63)	41
Kattukudallur	6 (13.95)	17 (39.53)	5 (11.63)	8 (18.60)	7 (16.28)	43
Sepakkam	12 (33.33)	6 (16.67)	7 (19.44)	6 (16.67)	5 (13.89)	36
Thalanallur	5 (11.90)	6 (14.29)	18 (42.86)	7 (16.67)	6 (14.29)	42
Total	77 (21.15)	75 (20.60)	87 (23.90)	66 (18.13)	59 (16.21)	364

Source: Primary data

Figures within parentheses indicate percentage

The respondents of Kallipadi village (27.78%) and Keelamanakudi village (42.11%) and Thalanallur village (42.86%) are familiar with organic farming and sustainable agriculture only through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation. Out of the total 364 respondents 18.13 per cent of them have awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture only through Namazhuar movement. A considerable number of the respondents of Pinnalur village (24.14%) and Ampalpuram village (23.53%) have knowledge about organic farming and sustainable agriculture through Namazhuar movement. Moreover 16.21 per cent of the respondents are aware of organic farming and sustainable agriculture only through agriculture extension agencies.

It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that the knowledge about organic farming and sustainable agriculture only through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation ranks the first position as per the reporting of the respondents, knowledge generation through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation along with friends and relatives the second, knowledge generation through Namazhuar movement and Co farmers the third, knowledge generation only

through Namazhuar movement the fourth and knowledge generation only through Agriculture extension agencies the last. In general the farmers of Keelamanakudi village and Thalanallu village have knowledge generation only through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation about organic farming and sustainable agriculture. The Namazhuar movement has considerable influence in knowledge generation about organic farming and sustainable agriculture in Moovur village and Pinnalur village.

Table .2

Farm Wise Respondents' awareness about Organic Farming and Sustainable Agriculture

Category of farm size	M.S. Swaminathan research foundation and Friends and relatives	Namazhuar movement and Co farmers	M.S. Swaminathan research foundation	Namazhuar movement	Agriculture extension agencies	Total
Marginal	16 (13.22)	9 (7.44)	40 (33.06)	33 (27.27)	23 (19.01)	121
Small	33 (36.26)	22 (24.18)	12 (13.19)	8 (8.79)	16 (17.58)	91
Medium	21 (24.71)	36 (42.35)	11 (12.94)	9 (10.59)	8 (9.41)	85
Large	7 (10.45)	8 (11.94)	24 (35.82)	16 (23.88)	12 (17.91)	67
Total	77 (21.15)	75 (20.60)	87 (23.90)	66 (18.13)	59 (16.21)	364

Source: Primary data

Figures within parentheses indicate percentage

Chi-Square Summary Result

Chi square Calculated Value	Degrees of freedom	Chi square table value at 5%
84.20	12	21.0

Table 2 presents data on the farm wise respondents' awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture. It could be noted that majority of the small farmers are aware of organic farming and sustainable agriculture through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation along with friends and relatives (36.26%) and Namazhuar movement and Co farmers (24.18%). A considerable number of the medium farmers (42.35%) are familiar with organic farming and sustainable agriculture through Namazhuar movement and Co farmers. A one third of the marginal farmers (33.06%) and large farmers (35.82%) are aware of organic farming and sustainable agriculture only through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation.

The chi square test is applied for further discussion. The computed chi square value 84.20 is greater than its tabulated value at 5 per cent level significance. Hence there is a significant

difference between farm size and respondents awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture.

It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that small farmers and medium farmers mainly have awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture only through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation and Friends and relatives and Namazhuar movement and Co farmers.

Table .3

Caste wise Respondents' awareness about Organic Farming and Sustainable Agriculture

Caste group	M.S. Swaminathan research foundation Friends and relatives	Namazhuar movement and Co farmers	M.S. Swaminathan research foundation	Namazhuar movement	Agriculture extension agencies	Total
Forward caste	32 (42.11)	20 (26.32)	9 (11.84)	7 (9.21)	8 (10.53)	76
Backward caste	8 (8.99)	40 (44.94)	22 (24.72)	12 (13.48)	7 (7.87)	89
Most Backward Caste	31 (21.99)	7 (4.96)	30 (21.28)	41 (29.08)	32 (22.70)	141
Scheduled caste	6 (10.34)	8 (13.79)	26 (44.83)	6 (10.34)	12 (20.69)	58
Total	71 (21.15)	75 (20.60)	87 (23.90)	66 (18.13)	59 (16.21)	364

Source: Primary data

Figures within parentheses indicates percentage

Chi-Square Summary Result

Chi square calculated value	Degrees of freedom	Chi square table value at 5%
111.1	12	21.0

Table .3 presents data on the caste wise respondents' awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture. It could be noted that majority of the forward caste farmers (42.11%) are aware of organic farming and sustainable agriculture through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation and Friends and relatives. A considerable number of the backward caste farmers (44.94%) are familiar with organic farming and sustainable agriculture through Namazhuar movement and Co farmers. Majority of the scheduled farmers (44.83%) are aware of organic farming and sustainable agriculture only through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation. A

considerable number of the most backward caste respondents (29.08%) are familiar with organic farming and sustainable agriculture through Namazhuar movement.

The chi square test is applied for further discussion. The computed chi square value 111.1 is greater than its tabulated value at 5 % level significance. Hence ,there is a significant difference between caste status and respondents awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture.

It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that scheduled caste farmers and medium farmers mainly have awareness about organic farming and sustainable agriculture only through M.S. Swaminathan research foundation and it is Namazhuar movement in the case of backward caste farmers.

SUGGESTIONS

The findings of the present study lead to the following policy suggestions.

In order to generate more income and employment in rural areas, organic farming system could be practiced. In this connection there is a need to conduct awareness campaign among the farm households. NGOs and agricultural extension agencies should do this task.

- There is a need to establish separate research centre for organic farming in different parts of the country.
- The government should support organic farming system in the form of conducting awareness programme.

CONCLUSION

Awareness about organic farming would facilitate the farmer to modify and improve the present cultivation in the right direction The result of farm wise analysis reveals that small farmers and medium farmers mainly have awareness about organic farming sustainable agriculture only through M. S.Swminathan research foundation and friends and relatives and co farmers. The cause and effects of production and marketing are brought in to the attention of government to take remedial measures for the survey and growth.

REFERENCES

- Michal Carolan (2006) Social Change and the adoption and adaption of Knowledge claims: Whose truth do you trust in regard to sustainable agriculture? Agriculture and Human Values, vol23, issue3, pages 325-339.
- Ress C,(1997) Re greening:. Making Agriculture Environmentally Sustainable, Environmental Matters at the world Bank, pp. 16-18.
- Sustainable agriculture in Aotearoa: Social Learning through Picewise Deliberation Working Papers from HAL.