Innovations

Organic Farming in Shivamoga District - An Analysis

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Abstract: *Agricultural sector plays a predominant role in the Indian economy. A huge proportion of the population in rural area depends on this sector for livelihood and employment opportunities. Agriculture helps the economy by the way of increased income of the farmers, employment and food security. To meet the increased demand for food, the farmers apply more fertilizers and pesticides in farming. As a result, fertility of the soil reduces and adversely affects the environment and human health. Organic agriculture has gained more attention as a prospective solution to the challenges of food security in India. Hence, this study aimed at an analysis of the current status of organic farming in Shivamoga district. The objective of this paper has been an analysis of the current status of organic and non-organic farming in Shivamogga district. This paper is based on primary data. The data were gathered through personal interview using Schedule administered for a total of 79 respondents randomly selected from the seven taluks of Shivamoga district (February 2025). The study found that, organic farming helps to increase agricultural production and productivity and increases the income of the farmers. But there is a lack of awareness about organic farming. Hence, Government and the NGOs should create more awareness and provide more incentives to the farmers to promote the practice of organic farming for the betterment of agriculture in future.*

Key Words: *Agriculture, Organic Farming, Production, Productivity*

Introduction

The history of organic farming in India is deeply rooted in traditional farming practices, which have existed for thousands of years. Traditional Indian farming has always emphasized using natural resources and processes to produce crops without harming the environment. In recent years, the organic farming movement has gained momentum in India as people have become more concerned about the harmful effects of conventional farming methods on the environment and human

health.[1] Organic farming has gained significant global attention as a result of the increasing need for safe and nutritious food, as well as mounting apprehensions over contamination of the environment resulting from the uncontrolled use of agrochemicals. In India, a significant proportion of the population, nearly 68 per cent relies on agriculture and its associated activities for their livelihood. Additionally, around 52 per cent of the entire workforce in the country is engaged in this sector. The agricultural sector has significant importance in the Indian economy, given that India is the leading global provider of rice, wheat, and cotton. India is recognized as the second most prominent global exporter of sugar cane, vegetables, fruit, and tea.[2] Considering the above context, the present study attempted at Organic Farming in Shivamogga District, as thought contextual.

Objectives of the Study

This study has been carried with the following objectives:

- To analyse the current status of organic and non-organic farming in Shivamogga district.
- To identify the problems confronting the farmers in organic farming in the study area.
- To suggest remedies for the betterment of organic agriculture in the district.

Research Methodology

The present study is descriptive and analytical. Keeping the time and resources at the Researcher's disposal in view, purposefully a small sample of 79 (Shivamogga - 15, Bhadravathi - 11, Shikaripura - 09, Thirthahalli - 13, Hosanagara - 09, Soraba - 09 and Sagara - 12 = 79) has been taken at random. Information has been gathered using Interview Schedule; Personal Interviews have been carried with the respondents by the first author during February 2025. The data gathered are presented in Tables, analyzed using average and percentage tools. The study results restrict to the region selected and cannot be generalized for limitation of small size of the sample

Results and Discussion

1. Demographic Characteristics

Demographic profile is an important characteristic of any population. Table 1 given the details.

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1 Roshan Raj Bhujel and Harisha G. Josh (2023). Organic Agriculture in India: A Review of Current Status, Challenges, and Future Prospects. *Universal Journal of Agricultural Research, 11*(2), 306.

2 Shailaja Bhagwanrao Bhosale and Mukundraj B. Patil (2024). Revolutionizing Agriculture: The Growth of Organic Farming in India. *Journal of Chemical Health Risks, 14*(2), 1950.

Table 1
Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Age (Years)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
(01)	**(02)**	**(03)**
21-30	40	50.65
31-40	15	18.98
41-50	24	30.37
51-60	00	00.00
60 and above	00	00.00
Total	**79**	**100.00**

Source: Primary Investigation, February 2025

It is found that, out of the total 79 respondents interviewed, about 50.63 per cent is found to be in between the age group of 21 and 30 years and 18.98 per cent in between the age group of 31 and 40 years, and the remaining 30.37 per cent is in the age group of 41-50 years. Thus, it is found in the field that, a majority of the respondents (i.e., 50.63 per cent) are in the age group of 21-30 years. The Researchers found all the respondents interviewed belong to a single religious background, the Hindu.

2. Level of Education

Educational level is the most important factor deciding many issues in one's life. The details of educational status of the respondents are given in Table 2.

Table 2
Level of Education of the Respondents

Level of Education	No. of Respondents	Percentage
(01)	**(02)**	**(03)**
Below Matriculation	13	16.45
Matriculation	22	27.84
Intermediate	21	26.58
Graduate	20	25.34
Post-Graduate	03	03.79
Total	**79**	**100.00**
Marital Status		
Single	01	01.26
Married	78	98.74
Total	**79**	**100.00**

Source: Primary Investigation, February 2025

The data proved that, of the total 79 respondents interviewed, 16.45 per cent studied up to a level below matriculation, 27.84 per cent of them is matriculates, 26.58 per cent is found to be intermediate, 25 per cent completed Graduation and the remaining 3.79 per cent of them hold Post-Graduation Degree. Further, the marital status is concerned, about 98.74 per cent is married and a meager 1.26 per cent is unmarried in the study area.

3. Housing Conditions of the Respondents

It is evident from the primary survey that, all the 79 respondents interviewed own pucca houses, cent per cent of them posses separate cattle yard and all the respondents are found to have electricity connection, sources of drinking water and adequate water facility in the region. Thus it is found that, all the respondents interviewed have access to basic amenities in their houses.

4. Landholdings

It is found that, all the respondents - interviewed are land holders.

5. Extent of Land

The details of extent of land of the respondents and crops grown and mode of agricultural practice are presented in Table 3.

Table 3
Extent of Land (Acres) and Mode of Agricultural Practice

Type Land	No. of Respondents	Percentage
(01)	**(02)**	**(03)**
Fertile Land	79	100.00
Total	**79**	**100.00**
Crops Grown		
Food Crops	05	06.32
Commercial Crops	17	21.53
Both	57	72.15
Total	**79**	**100.00**
Experience (Years)		
Above 20 Years	79	100.00
Total	**79**	**100.00**
Mode of Agricultural Practices		
Traditional Method	34	43.03
Modern Method	08	10.14

Both	37	46.83
Total	**79**	**100.00**
Type of Agricultural Practice		
Organic Only	33	41.77
Non-organic only	08	10.13
Both	38	48.10
Total	**79**	**100.00**
Total Area under		
Organic (Acres)	238	64.15
Non-organic (Acres)	131	35.30
Both (Acres)	002	00.55
Total	**371**	**100.00**

Source: Primary Investigation, February 2025

It could be seen from the above Table that, almost all the respondents used fertile land. With respect to crops grown 6.32 per cent grow food crops, 21.51 per cent grow commercial crops and 72.15 per cent of the respondents grow both the crops. Further, almost all of the respondents found in the field of agriculture for more than 20 years of organic farming practices in the region. With regard to mode of agricultural practices about 43.03 per cent viewed that, they have practiced only organic farming, 10.12 per cent of them used modern agricultural practices and remaining 46.83 per cent have practiced both organic and non-organic. Added to this, about 41.77 per cent of the respondents practiced organic farming only, 10.12 per cent practiced Non-organic only and 48.12 per cent practiced both organic and non-organic in the study area. With respect to total area of organic farming, out of the total 371.0 acres of land, a higher proportion of the land i.e., 64.15 per cent is found to be used for organic farming and the 35.30 per cent of the area covered under non-organic and the remaining 0.53 per cent of the area is found used for both organic and non-organic practices in the study area. It is also observed in the field that, majority of the respondents used fertile land, most of them grow both fruits and commercial crops, and used both methods i.e., traditional and modern in the agricultural practices.

6. Type of Agricultural Practice

Below Table shows the type of agricultural practice followed in the study area.

Table 4
Type of Agricultural Practice Followed

Agricultural Practice	No. of Respondents	Percentage
(01)	**(02)**	**(03)**
Organic	33	41.77
Non-organic	08	10.13
Both	38	48.10
Total	**79**	**100.00**

Source: Primary Investigation, February 2025

Above Table provides information about type of agricultural practice followed by the respondents in the study area. Among the respondents interviewed, 41.77 per cent followed organic farming in agriculture, 10.13 per cent followed non-organic farming and remaining 48.10 per cent followed both type of agricultural practices in the region. Field survey shows that, majority of the respondents 48.10 per cent are practiced both organic and non-organic agricultural practices.

7. Cost of Cultivation under Organic and Non-organic Practices

Cost of cultivation is most important in any farming. Higher the cost, lesser the benefit, lesser cost will increase the benefit and motivate the farmers to undertake farming activities. The pertaining information obtained from the respondents regarding cost of cultivation under both the organic and non-organic has been shown in Table 5.

Table 5
Cost of Cultivation under Organic and Non-organic Practices (Per acre)

Activity	Cost/ Acre/Year (`)	
	Organic	Non-organic
(01)	**(02)**	**(03)**
Production	26,67,000	46,49,000
Productivity	891 quintals	2291 Quintals

Source: Primary Investigation, February 2025

It can be observed from the Table 6 that, cost of cultivation under organic farming is about ` 26, 67, 000 and non-organic farming which is about ` 46,49,000 per acre per year. Here, it is clear that cost of cultivation for Non-organic is higher than that of organic farming in the study area. Hence, cultivation cost under organic farming is lesser than non-organic farming. The Productivity of organic farming was 891 quintals and non-organic farming is about 2,291 Quintals as found from the field investigation.

8. Mode of Transportation

Mode of transportation is a significant factor boosting the agricultural produce. It is found that, the details of mode of transport used by the respondents for marketing their agricultural produce in the region is four-wheeler as opined by all the respondents under study.

9. Middlemen Involvement in Selling the Crops

Further, it is found in the field that, a high of 63.29 per cent of the respondents in the region sell their agricultural produce through middlemen involved in the process. This is to be effectively resolved by government intervention to safeguard the farmer's interests.

10. Difference between Market Price and Middlemen Price for Crops

The details of difference between market price and middlemen price for agricultural crops are presented in below Table 6.

Table 6

Difference between Market Price and Middlemen Price for Crops

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
(01)	**(02)**	**(03)**
Yes	48	60.75
No	31	39.25
Total	**79**	**100.00**

Source: Primary Investigation, February 2025

It is evident from the above Table that, out of the total 79 respondents, about 60.75 per cent opined that there is difference between market price and middlemen price and the remaining 39.24 per cent of them said there is no difference between market price and middlemen price for their agricultural crops.

It is a matter of fact that, organic products are always healthy. This idea is found true in the field as opined by all the respondents.

11. Impact of Organic Farming on Financial Status

The details of impact of organic farming on financial status of the farmers is presented in Table below

Table 7

Impact of Organic Farming and Non-organic Farming on Financial Status

Impact	Organic Farming		Non-Organic Farming	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
(01)	(02)	(03)	(04)	(05)
Improved financial status	71	89.87	08	10.12
Not improved financial status	08	10.12	71	89.87
Total	**79.00**	**100.00**	**79.00**	**100.00**

Source: Primary Investigation, February 2025

It is evident from the above Table that, out of the total 79 respondents interviewed about 89.87 per cent opined about improved financial status after practicing organic farming and the remaining 10.12 per cent of them viewed that their financial status after practicing organic farming in the study area has not improved. With respect Non-organic farming about 10.12 per cent of the respondents are replied that Non-organic farming improved financial status and 89.87 per cent of them viewed that not-improved financial status of the farmers in Shivamogga District. It is found that majority of the respondents opined that organic farming improved financial status of the farmers than Non-organic farming in the region.

It is observed and found in the field that, out of the total 79 respondents in the field interviewed, all of them are in the favour of organic farming as their first preference for higher yield than the non-organic farming. Thus, the farmers in this region of Karnataka state perceived the idea of organic farming positively which is a welcome feature viewed from the prospects angle of agriculture in the district of Shivamogga in general.

Findings

Based on the study some useful findings are summarized below:

- About 50.63 per cent of the respondents in the age group of between 21 and 30 years and all the respondents belong to Other Backward Community; the sample was random.
- The farmers interviewed are found relatively educated ranging from matriculation to Post Graduation.
- The study found that, out of the total 79 respondents interviewed almost all of the respondents own pucca houses, separate cattle yard, and cent per cent of the respondents are found accessible to electricity connection and to the sources of drinking water in the region.

- It is found that, almost all of the respondents used fertile land. With respect to crops grown 72.15 per cent of the respondents grow both food and commercial crops in the region. The study also found that, almost all the respondents are in agriculture for more than 20 years and follow farming practices in the region.
- The primary survey data revealed that, about 43.03 per cent of the respondents is practicing only organic farming; about 10.12 per cent of them said they used modern agricultural practices and 46.83 per cent of them replied that they practice both organic and non-organic farming agricultural practice.
- In the investigation, it is also found that, out of the total of 371.0 acres of land about 64.15 per cent is found to be used for organic farming and the 35.30 per cent of the area covered under non-organic and the remaining 0.53 per cent of the area used for both organic and Non-organic practices in Shivamogga District.
- The study found that, about 41.77 per cent of the respondents opined that they grow organic crops; 10.12 per cent of them grow non-organic crops and the remaining 48.10 per cent of the respondents grow both organic and non-organic crops.
- It is evident from the statistical data that, almost all of the respondents opined that, they have use four-wheelers for marketing of agricultural produces in the study area.
- It is found that the cost of cultivation for organic farming is about ` 26,67,000 per acre per year and for non-organic farming is about ` 46,49,000 per acre per year. Here, it is clear that cost of cultivation for non-organic is higher than that of organic farming in the study area. Hence cultivation cost of organic farming is lesser than non-organic farming. The productivity of organic farming was 891 quintal and Non-organic farming is about 2,291 quintal as found from the field investigation.
- Further, according to 63.29 per cent of the respondents there is involvement of middlemen for selling their crops in the market and the remaining 36.70 per cent of them said there is no involvement of middlemen in selling their crops in the nearest market place.
- It is found according to 60.75 per cent of the respondents, that there is difference between market price and middlemen price and the remaining 39.24 per cent of them said there is no difference between market price and middlemen price for agricultural crops in Shivamoga district.
- In the study, almost all of the respondents opined that organic crops are healthier than non-organic one.
- Most importantly, the study found that organic farming improved the financial status of the farmers than the non-organic farming in the region; and farmers have a favourable preference for organic farming in the region.

Suggestions

Based on the above findings, some useful suggestions have been made as follows:

- There is need for more awareness about organic farming. Hence, government should create more awareness about the benefit of the organic farming for the development of agriculture.
- There is need to create more awareness among both consumers and producers for the betterment of organic farming in the state.
- Government should create forestation for increased production and productivity of organic farming in the state.
- There is need for improvement in infrastructure facilities especially in transportation for the supply of organic farming produce to the nearby the market.
- Government should provide separate price for organic produce. Hence, farmers would be motivated to undertake organic farming practices in the future.

Conclusion

Organic farming has been playing significant role in increased production and productivity of agricultural crops. It is the only best solution to overcome the obstacles confronting the Indian agriculture. It is found from the study that majority of the farmers practiced organic with good experience and they gain more income and employment opportunities without adverse effects on environment and human health. Hence there is urgent need for more awareness about the organic farming. In this regard government should come forward to create more awareness towards organic farming by providing more incentives, for the betterment of agriculture in the future.

References

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